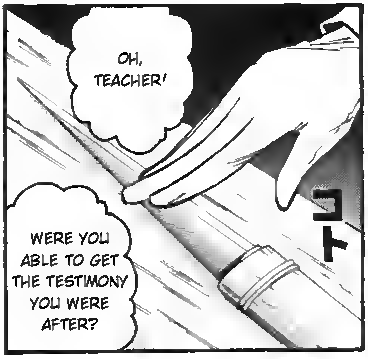
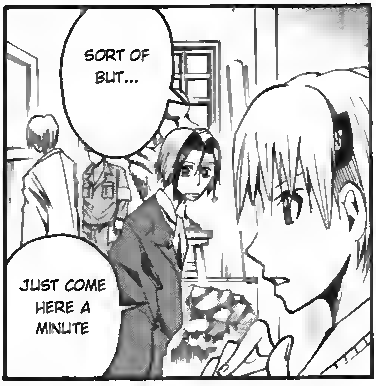
CHAPTER 53 間【MEANWHILE】





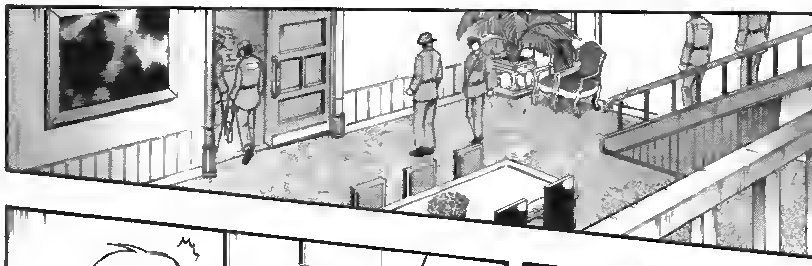
TEXT CLEANING: ANONYMOUS TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS EDITING: ANONYMOUS DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

THEY ALL SPENT THE NIGHT BY THEMSELVES
BUT I THINK THAT'S NATURAL ENOUGH
HM
.....
THAT'S ALL BUT ANYWAY, THE WAY THE PEOPLE IN THIS HOUSE ACTED LAST NIGHT
I FELT THAT EVERYONE WAS PRETTY RELAXED OVERALL
IT MUST BE TERRIBLY DIFFICULT TO MAKE IT FALL OVER
THAT GIANT LUMP OF STONE...
THE VICTIM WILL END UP RUNNING AWAY BEFORE IT CRUSHES THEM
IF THEY EVEN TRY TO KILL SOMEONE
IF THE CRIMINAL TRIES...
IT IS NOT TRULY NECESSARY FOR THEM TO CREATE AN ALIBI
IF IT IS DISGUISED AS AN ACCIDENT ALL TALK WILL BE BROUGHT TO AN END
IT STARTING TO SOLIDIFY THE CASE AS AN ACCIDENT
EVEN THE POLICE INVESTIGATION RIGHT NOW...
...YEAH

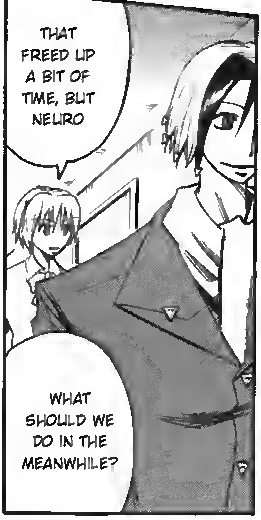
SEMPAI
THIS HAS TO BE AN ACCIDENT
I KNOW IT'S THE SAME AS THAT CASE A YEAR AGO BUT
ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN
.....YEAH, THEY DO
BUT FROM HERE IT LOOKS EASY TO TOPPLE
SINCE HE MADE ALL OF THESE SUCH UNSTEADY RANDOM-LOOKING SHAPES
IT'S AN ACCIDENT, RIGHT!!
SO WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE NOW!!
I GET SO, SO SCARED WHEN I THINK ABOUT X COMING HERE...
.....
OKAY
GUESS WE'LL HEAD BACK
AND LEAVE YOU BEHIND FOR SECURITY
BUT, BUT!!
...THAT'S WHAT IT SEEMS LIKE
HMPH
THEY MUST BE STOPPED
ニャキイン
?

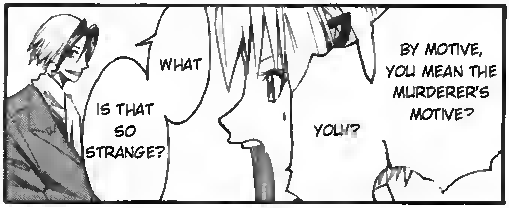
TEACHER HAS A NAGGING SUSPICION THAT THIS WAS A MURDER!
スッ
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
YOU CANNOT GO!!
CERTAINLY, MANY OF THE ESTEEMED MR ESHIYA'S CREATIONS ARE UNSTABLE, BUT...
HIS WIFE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT VERY WELL
SINCE THE ONE WHO CREATED THEM WAS CRUSHED UNDERNEATH ONE...
ACCORDINGLY, SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN CAUTIOUS
AL-THOUGH ...
IS IT SO EASY TO BE CRUSHED UNDER ONE OF THESE?

YES!
BUT... THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT
ビク
WELL, THERE'S A REASON I ALWAYS SEEM TO HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT THE CASE WILL BE SOLVED
...HUUUH...
SINCE THERE'S A REASON YOU CAME TO STOP OUR VISIT WITH AS MUCH AS A CROSS-CHOP
WHEN THAT TIME COMES...
TEACHER WILL GIVE YOU ALL OF HER REASONING
UNTIL THAT TIME, IF YOU COULD WAIT...
THE SUN HASN'T RISEN VERY HIGH YET
...GOT IT
THE FAMILY WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO THAT AS WELL
JUST GIVE THE WORD
IT WOULD BE WORTH IT FOR YOU TO PLEASE WAIT UNTIL THE WIFE TAE'S TIME OF DEATH, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT



HM
IF I CAN, I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN INVESTIGATION OF THE MOTIVE
MOTIVE?


THAT FREED UP A BIT OF TIME, BUT NEURO
WHAT SHOULD WE DO IN THE MEANWHILE?


BY MOTIVE, YOU MEAN THE MURDERER'S MOTIVE?
YOU!?
WHAT
IS THAT SO STRANGE?

HOW RUDE
DON'T I TREAT YOU AS SUCH A SPLENDID LADY
YOU'RE EVEN SAYING WORDS LIKE "LADY" OUTRIGHT!!

YOU DON'T THINK OF HUMANS AS ANYTHING BUT A FIELD TO LET YOUR FOOD, PUZZLES, RIPEN IN...
YOU TREAT EVERYTHING OUTSIDE THAT AS NOTHING BUT WORMS...
AND YOU WANT TO KNOW THE MOTIVE FOR ONE PERSON KILLING ANOTHER!?

I UNDERSTAND THE OVERALL TRICK IN THIS ROOM
BUT
I DO NOT YET UNDERSTAND THE REASON SHE WAS CALLED TO IT
IT IS NOT THE MURDERER'S MOTIVE
IT IS THE MOTIVE FOR ENTERING THAT ROOM
ガチャ…
THEY ARE IN THE ROOM NEXT DOOR
NOW IF WE CAN SIMPLY PICK UP A GOOD CONVERSATION
IF ONE WAS CALLED FOR AN UNNATURAL REASON…
ONE WOULD HAVE TO BE SUSPICIOUS
EVEN IN THE CASE OF FAMILY
IT IS A ROOM WHERE A PERSON HAD DIED BEFORE
AT THIS POINT IN TIME…
…I SEE
I GUESS EVEN NEURO HAS TO KNOW WHAT HUMANS WILL BE WILLING OR UNWILLING TO DO
CALLING THE VICTIM TO THAT ROOM…
DID NOT INVOLVE A TRICK, EITHER

777 Tools of the Daemon World
EVIL BUTTERFLY
TO A SURVEILLANCE BUG FROM THE DAEMON WORLD, EVEN A CONCRETE WALL IS PAPER-THIN
IF YOU PUT THIS RECEIVER IN YOUR EAR, IT WILL BRING THEIR WHISPERS TO YOU

AHH
AH
AHHH
SNEEZE?
?
IT'S ONLY ...
A LITTLE BIT OF A BOTHER WHEN YOU FEEL IT SNEEZE
IT'LL BE FINE

ACHOOO
IT WILL BE FINE
スポ
NO IT WON'T!!
NOW THEN, LISTEN...
WHAT'S GOING ON, I WONDER
WAIT UNTIL EVENING, THEY SAID
FUCK...
WELL, IT'LL BE OKAY
IF THERE'S POLICE AND SO ON AROUND...
THEY'LL DO FOR PROTECTION AGAINST

IF IT IS, WELL
SHOULDN'T WE JUST THROW IT AWAY
!

HEY BRO'
I'VE GOT A SUGGESTION
WHAT, TOSHI-MITSU

X IS..
AFTER THAT STATUE, "MY FINAL SELF"?
IT'S THE FAULT OF THAT THAT SIS IS DEAD TOO...
IT'S GETTING TO BE A DANGER TO US TOO

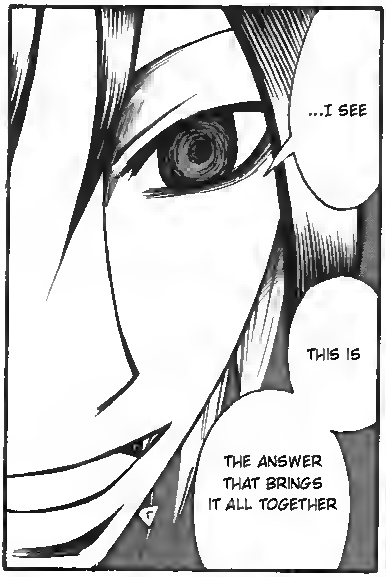
I'D THOUGHT WE MIGHT SELL IT, BUT
... THAT'S RIGHT
EVEN IF WE THROW IT AWAY, IT'S NO LOSS TO US
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'S GARBAGE

WE COULD DONATE IT SOMEHOW
SURELY
MAKE IT EASY FOR X TO HEAR ABOUT
AND THEN HE'LL HAVE NO REASON TO COME AFTER US

.....
AND WITHOUT THAT AROUND...

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND IT
THAT OLD FART ESHIYA'S...
HIDDEN FORTUNE
!!
WHEN YOU LOOK AT IT, THE AMOUNT OF MONEY FROM HIS WORKS IS CLEARLY TOO LITTLE
YOU'D THINK HE'D DEPOSITED IT, BUT
THAT WAS THE REASON SIS MARRIED HIM
THERE'S NO DOUBT IT'S SOMEWHERE
THE WORKS FROM WHEN HE WAS IN HIS PRIME
MUST HAVE SOLD FOR A VERY HIGH PRICE
COULDN'T HAVE USED UP ALL THAT MONEY
LOST IN HIS LIFE OF CREATION, THAT OLD MAN...

IT'LL BE A PAIN IN THE ASS TO SORT IT ALL FOR RECYCLING, HUH
GAHAHAHAHAHA


...I SEE
THIS IS
THE ANSWER THAT BRINGS IT ALL TOGETHER

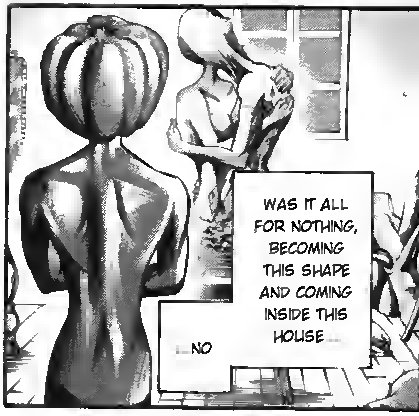
IT HAS TO BE HIDDEN SOMEWHERE
WE JUST HAVE TO FIND IT
AND WHEN WE DO, WE CAN GET RID OF ALL THIS USELESS BULKY GARBAGE

AH
ASSEMBLE THEM ALL AGAIN AT MIDNIGHT
FROM HERE, THERE ARE NO MORE PROBLEMS
I SHALL SLEEP UNTIL EVENING

ACHOO
FOR NOW, I'LL SHUDDER IN FEAR!!
...GEEZ...
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO, HERE ALL BY MYSELF...
.....
THAT STATUE...
I WONDER IF I SHOULD GO TAKE A LOOK AT IT AGAIN...
WHEN I'D BEEN ANTICIPATING COMING TO SEE IT...
...WHAT'S THIS
BORING

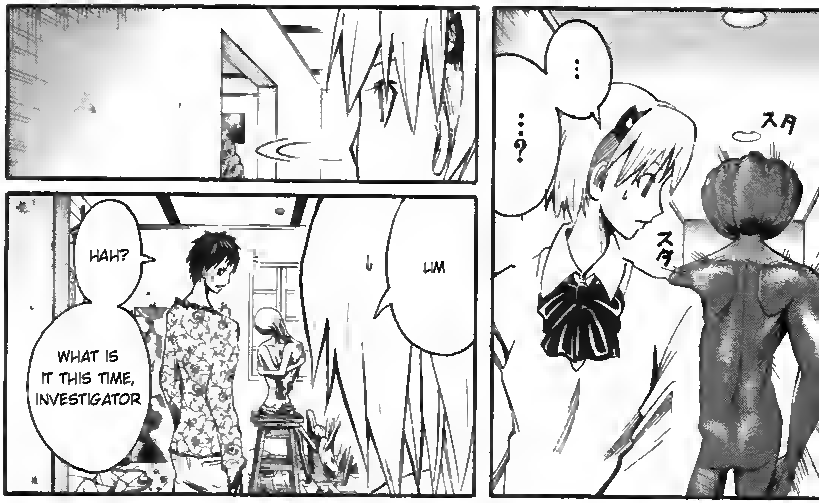
BUT I CAN FEEL IT'S SOMETHING THAT PAID OFF...
FOR THE MAN WHO MADE THIS...
THERE'S NO VALUE IN STEALING THIS THING

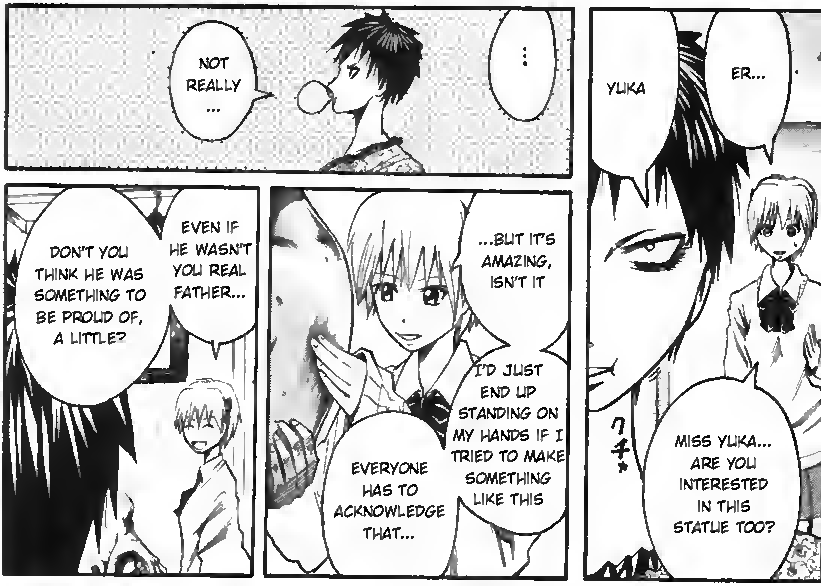
THERE'S STILL MERIT IN IT
NEURO IS...

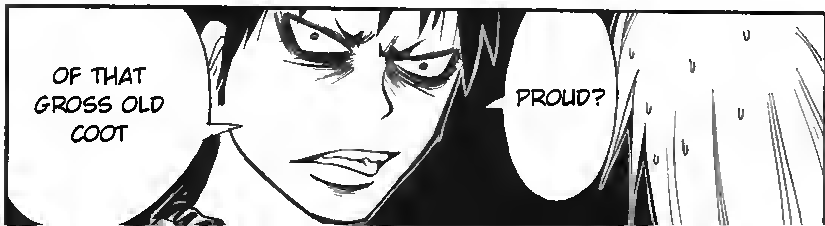

WAS IT ALL FOR NOTHING, BECOMING THIS SHAPE AND COMING INSIDE THIS HOUSE...
...NO

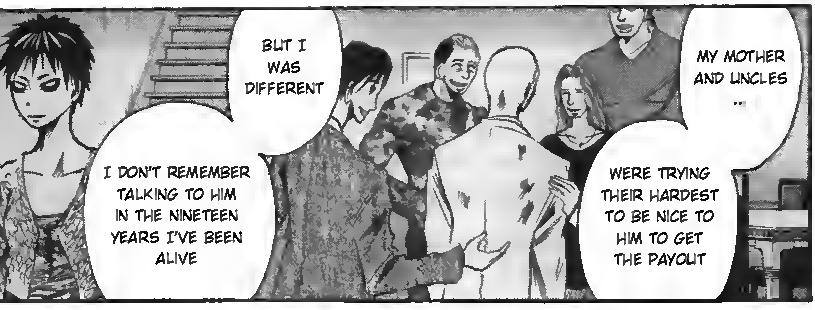
!
WHAT'S THIS

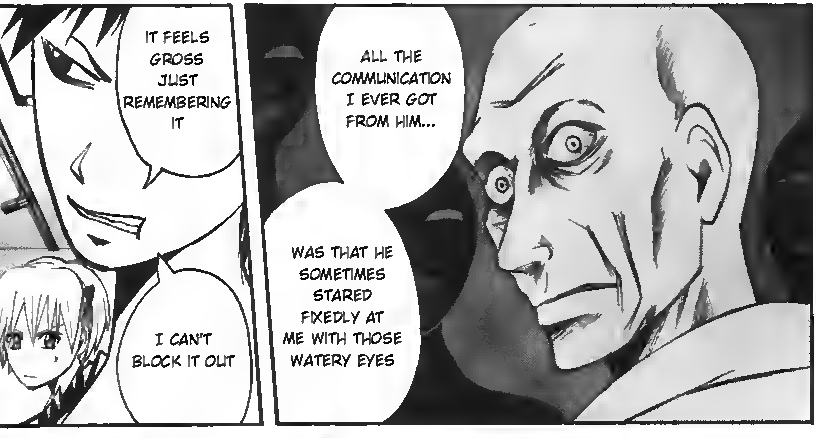
...COULD IT BE
NOT ONLY X, BUT SOMEONE LIKE YOU...
LOOKS LIKE THEY WANT THAT THING?
.....
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THAT STATUE?
.....
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT
WEIRDO
スッ
スタ
スタ
スタ
!
AH...


...
...?
スタ
スタ
UM
HAH?
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME, INVESTIGATOR

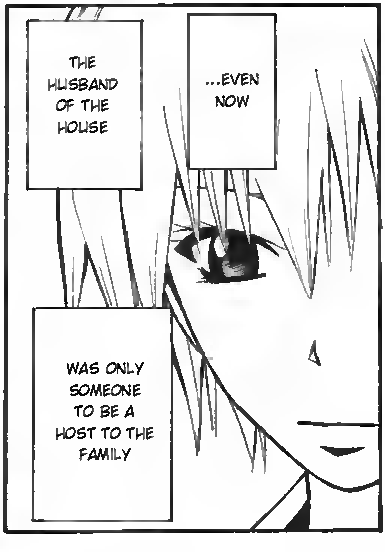

...
NOT REALLY ...
EVEN IF HE WASN'T YOU REAL FATHER...
DON'T YOU THINK HE WAS SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF, A LITTLE?
...BUT IT'S AMAZING, ISN'T IT
I'D JUST END UP STANDING ON MY HANDS IF I TRIED TO MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS
EVERYONE HAS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT...
YUKA
ER...
MISS YUKA... ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THIS STATUE TOO?
ウチ*


PROUD?
OF THAT GROSS OLD COOT


I DON'T REMEMBER TALKING TO HIM IN THE NINETEEN YEARS I'VE BEEN ALIVE
BUT I WAS DIFFERENT
MY MOTHER AND UNCLES ...
WERE TRYING THEIR HARDEST TO BE NICE TO HIM TO GET THE PAYOUT


IT FEELS GROSS JUST REMEMBERING IT
I CAN'T BLOCK IT OUT
ALL THE COMMUNICATION I EVER GOT FROM HIM...
WAS THAT HE SOMETIMES STARED FIXEDLY AT ME WITH THOSE WATERY EYES

BUT WELL
I WONDER WHY
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN IN HERE SINCE HE DIED


THE HUSBAND OF THE HOUSE
...EVEN NOW
WAS ONLY SOMEONE TO BE A HOST TO THE FAMILY

I LIKE IT A LITTLE...
THIS ROOM

SOMEHOW
I THINK IT FEELS NICE TO BE HERE
MY FAMILY'S SOLD OFF EVERYTHING WORTH ANYTHING, BUT

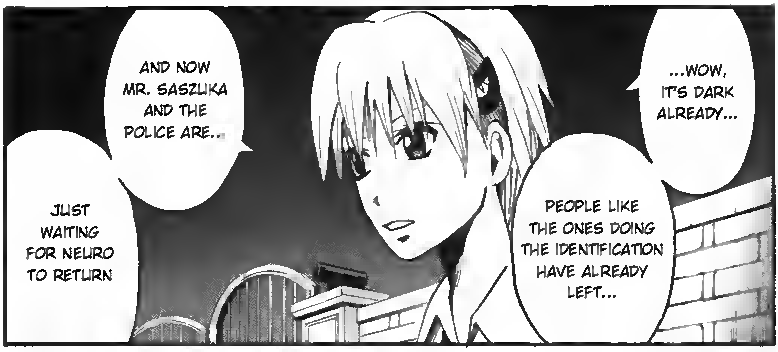
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'S GROSS GARBAGE, JUST LIKE THE OLD MAN, BUT
EVEN I THINK IT'S WEIRD, BUT
THIS THING...

IN COMING TO UNDERSTAND JUST A LITTLE...
THE HEART OF A DEAD MAN
NOW, CONSIDERING THAT I HAVE AN INTEREST IN IT...
I TRY TO QUIETLY UNDERSTAND NEURO'S LOGIC
SOLVING THE CASE CAN'T HELP BUT BE A BONUS
PROBABLY EVEN THE OTHER PEOPLE IN THIS HOUSE TOO
...YES
I, AND
ARE OF NO MORE USE
...
WHAT?

FEELINGS OF A DEAD MAN QUIZ
IN MR. TSUYUKI'S CASE

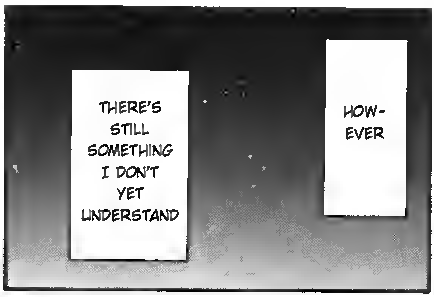
ANSWER: IF I COULD BE BORN AGAIN, I'D WANT TO BE TIGER WOODS

CHAPTER 54 影【SHADOW】

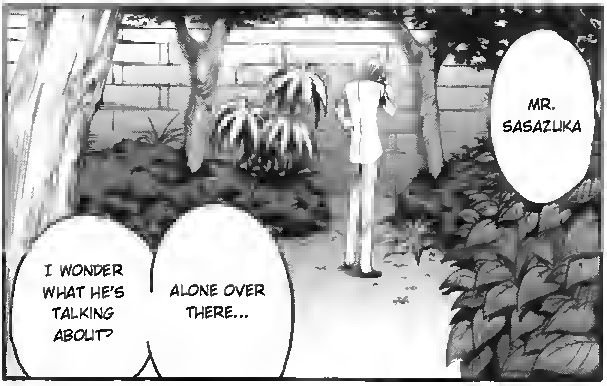

...WOW, IT'S DARK ALREADY...
PEOPLE LIKE THE ONES DOING THE IDENTIFICATION HAVE ALREADY LEFT...
AND NOW MR. SASZUKA AND THE POLICE ARE...
JUST WAITING FOR NEURO TO RETURN

TEXT CLEANING: ANONYMOUS TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS EDITING: ANONYMOUS DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED! TRANSLATIONS EXIST. ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

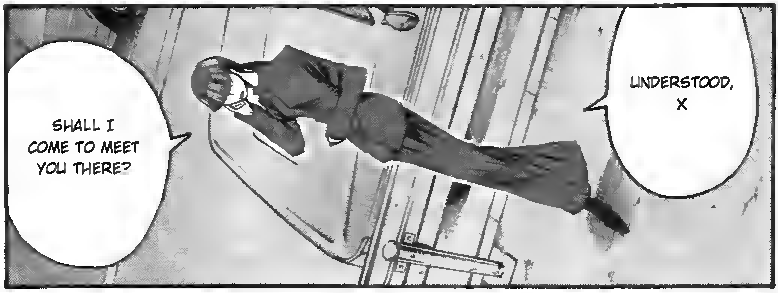
BUT
WHY DID I THINK THAT
WHAT SORT OF MESSAGE IS IT
IT WOULD BE WORDS I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO SAY PROPERLY
IF IT WAS ME ...

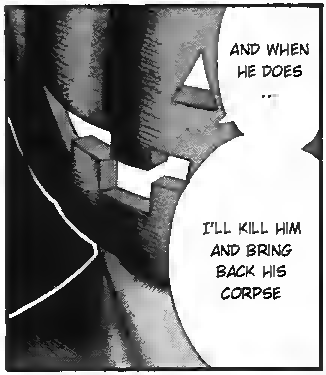

THERE'S STILL SOMETHING I DON'T YET UNDERSTAND
HOW-EVER

MAYBE THAT STATUE...
IS SOMETHING ESHIYA TOUGO MADE FOR MISS YUKA


MR. SASAZUKA
I WONDER WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT?
ALONE OVER THERE...

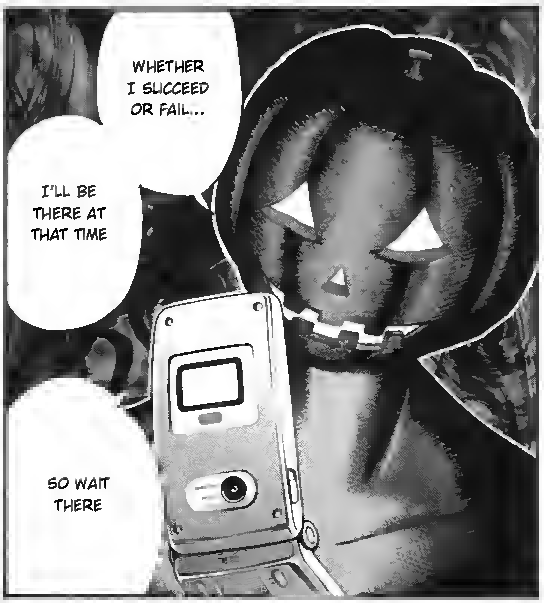
N?

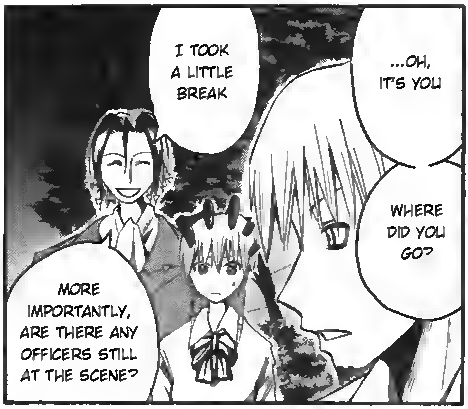

SHALL I COME TO MEET YOU THERE?
UNDERSTOOD, X


AND WHEN HE DOES ...
I'LL KILL HIM AND BRING BACK HIS CORPSE

YEAH...
NEURO WILL BEGIN TO SOLVE THE "PUZZLE" TONIGHT

I WILL PRAY FOR YOUR SUCCESS
ACKNOW-LEDGED
SURE
SEEYA


WHETHER I SUCCEED OR FAIL...
I'LL BE THERE AT THAT TIME
SO WAIT THERE


I TOOK A LITTLE BREAK
...OH, IT'S YOU
WHERE DID YOU GO?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, ARE THERE ANY OFFICERS STILL AT THE SCENE?

DETECTIVE SASAZUKA!
ピク

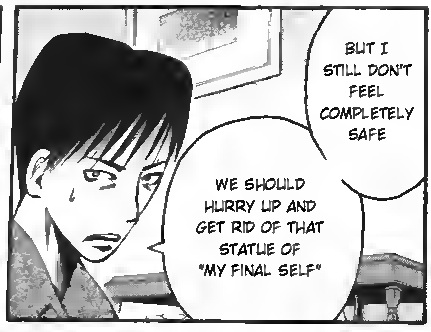
...YEAH, OF COURSE
UNTIL NIGHTFALL, WHEN YOU GUYS REVEAL THE TRICK...
WE DON'T WANT THE SCENE TAMPERED WITH, RIGHT?

I SEE
BUT I HAVE A REQUEST FROM TEACHER
?

AROUND TWO PEOPLE ARE STANDING WATCH
SINCE THE STATUE OF "MY FINAL SELF" IS STILL THERE
WE HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR X SHOWING UP

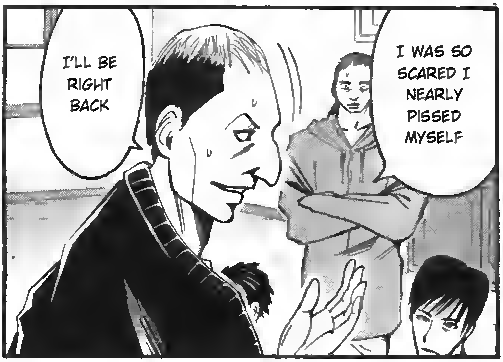
...WHAT WAS IT?
FOR THE TIME BEING, WE CAN GO TAKE A MEAL BREAK!!
WHA
SERIOUSLY !?
YES
YES
I...
HEARD JUST NOW THAT
FROM TONIGHT ON, THEY'RE ARRANGING FOR A HUGE NUMBER OF OFFICERS TO BE HERE!
SO THAT NO MATTER WHAT, X CAN'T INTERFERE!
.. AND IT'S OKAY FOR BOTH OF US TO GO
YEP, PRETTY MUCH!!
...
Y...
...YEAH
WELL....
.....BUT
FINALLY THE POLICE ARE GOING TO PROTECT US TOO

I DON'T KNOW WHY HE LOVES THAT STATUE SO MUCH BUT
IF WE DON'T TREAT THAT STATUE CAREFULLY
IT'S ASKING FOR TROUBLE
.....


BUT I STILL DON'T FEEL COMPLETELY SAFE
WE SHOULD HURRY UP AND GET RID OF THAT STATUE OF "MY FINAL SELF"

MORON
YEAH
AND IF THAT DRIVES X INTO A FRENZY, THEN WHAT?
IF YOU WANT, I CAN BREAK IT INTO BITS

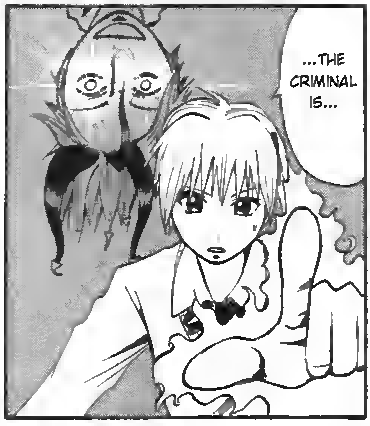
WHA ...
SERI-OUSLY LAME, UNCLE
N...
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT
IS THAT 'CAUSE YOU'RE SCARED OF X?

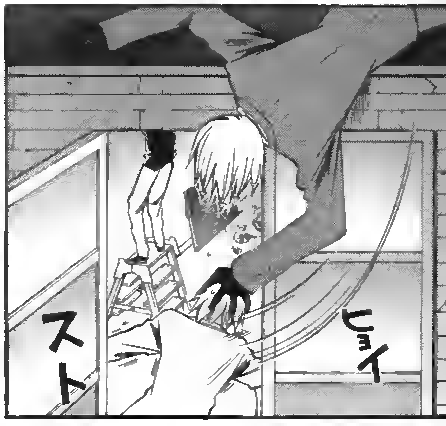

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK
I WAS SO SCARED I NEARLY PISSED MYSELF

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE CALMING DOWN
...HN? WHAT'S UP, KAZUHIGE?
UH...

I THOUGHT WHEN SHE'D FINALLY PASSED AWAY..
BUT ASSIGNING A HUGE NUMBER OF OFFICERS THIS TIME?
...DAMN...
IT'S BEEN PRETTY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I HAD CALCULATED
I WOULDN'T BE IN SUCH A HURRY HERE
IF THAT INVESTIGATOR HADN'T SAID TO WAIT UNTIL NIGHTFALL...
ガシャッ
I HAVE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISPOSE OF IT...
AT ALL COSTS
AND MAKE IT A COMPLETELY ACCIDENTAL DEATH...
IF I GOT RID OF THE OFFICERS AND THE INVESTIGATORS, THE FAMILY WOULD SUSPECT
BUT

ギィ…
!?……

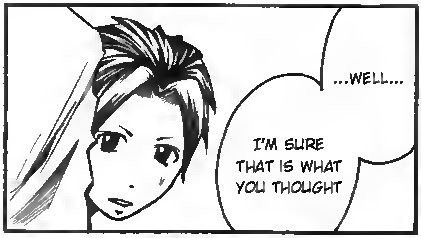

...THE CRIMINAL IS...


ヒョイ
スト

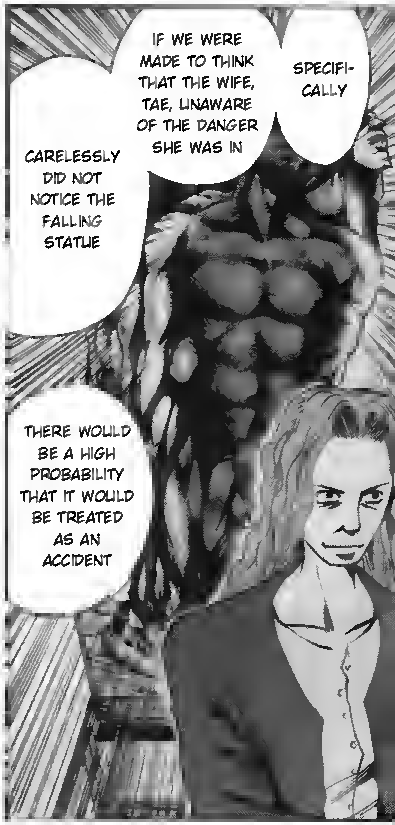
.....
...YOU...
DETECTIVE SASAZUKA
PLEASE CALL BACK YOUR OFFICERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
ALL IS WELL!!
ドカ
ドカ
ドカ
...!?
WH... WHAT WAS THAT?
HAVE THEY STARTED SOLVING THE MYSTERY ALREADY!?
LET'S GO, ISHIGAKI
THAT'S A DANGEROUS WAY TO GO IN JUST TO CATCH HIM BY SURPRISE
...GEEZ
BUT I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND X!!
ALREADY!?

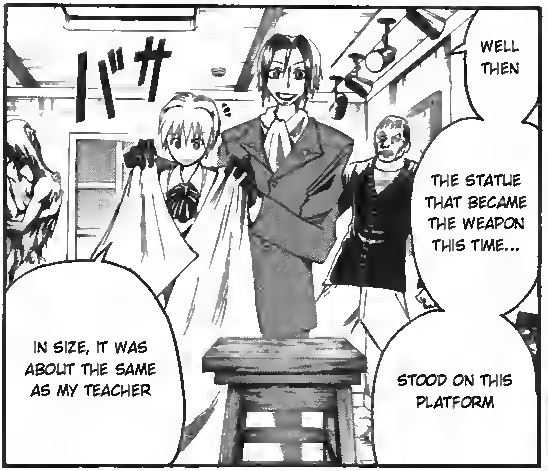
JUST...
WHAT?
SO
THE CRIMINAL WAS YOU
MR. KAZUSHIGE WASN'T IT?
SUDDENLY COMING IN AND SAYING I'M A CRIMINAL...
WHA...
I...
I WAS JUST ..
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS?
WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU MIGHT OBLITERATE, PERHAPS?
THE WORK YOU DID ON THE LIGHTING IS...
FOR YOUR TRICK TO MAKE THE MURDER SEEM LIKE AN ACCIDENT...
IT TOOK GUTS...

THEY CAN SHINE FROM VARIOUS ANGLES ON THE ARTWORK...
FURTHERMORE, THEY CAN BE TURNED ON AND OFF INDIVIDUALLY
PERHAPS THE ESTEEMED MR. ESHIYA USED THE SHADOW OF THE LIGHT TO CHECK OVER HIS WORK
THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SPOTLIGHTS HANGING IN THIS ROOM
カツーン
...!!
AS YOUR TRICK TO MAKE THE MURDER LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT, I WOULD GUESS
MR. KAZUHIGE
YOU USED THIS LIGHT AND AN UNSTABLE GIGANTIC STATUE...
TEACHER LOOKED INTO IT BUT
THERE WAS NO REAL POINT TO CRAFTING AN ALIBI
IF IT NATURALLY LOOKED LIKE AN UNEXPECTED ACCIDENT
THE MURDER IN THE DEPTHS OF NIGHT IN THIS LITTLE HOUSE
...!!
HEYHEYHEY WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?
OUR BROTHER, THE MURDERER!?
PRETENDING IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!?


...WELL...
I'M SURE THAT IS WHAT YOU THOUGHT

THIS TIME, KILLED WITH THIS TIMING
BECAUSE IT WAS A RATHER DEFENSELESS WAY OF DYING...
PERHAPS WITH ANY LUCK, IT WOULD BE SEEN AS X'S DOING
PEOPLE SHOULD EVEN START TO CONNECT IT TO X'S SUPERHUMAN ABILITIES


IF WE WERE MADE TO THINK THAT THE WIFE, TAE, UNAWARE OF THE DANGER SHE WAS IN
SPECIFI-CALLY
CARELESSLY DID NOT NOTICE THE FALLING STATUE
THERE WOULD BE A HIGH PROBABILITY THAT IT WOULD BE TREATED AS AN ACCIDENT

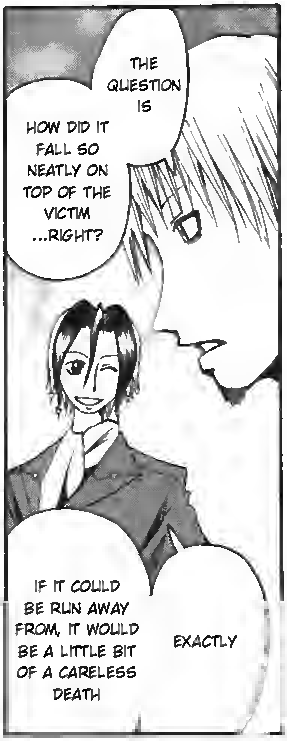

バサ
WELL THEN
THE STATUE THAT BECAME THE WEAPON THIS TIME...
IN SIZE, IT WAS ABOUT THE SAME AS MY TEACHER
STOOD ON THIS PLATFORM

...YEAH

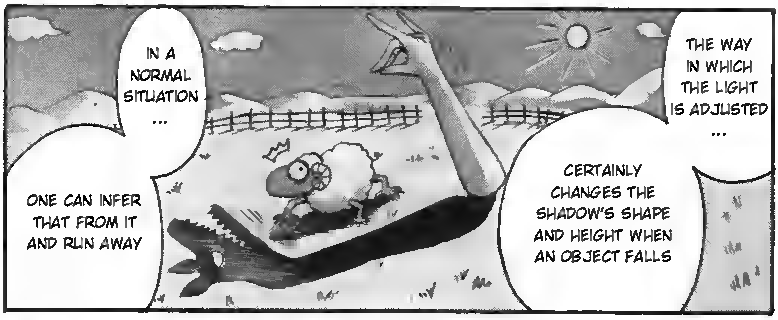
EVEN IF IT WAS A THREAD SO FINE IT COULDN'T BE SEEN PULLED FROM THE FRONT
EVEN IF IT WAS PUSHED FROM BEHIND...
A SINGLE PERSON COULD TOPPLE IT SOMEHOW

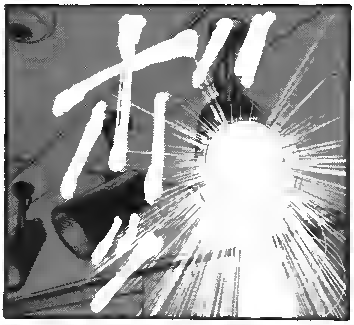
THE STATUE ITSELF IS HEAVY, BUT...
BECAUSE IT IS UNSTABLE, IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO SIMPLY TOPPLE IT

IF IT WAS PUSHED AROUND FORCEFULLY, THERE WOULD BE SIGNS OF THE STRUGGLE
AND SO, LITTLE CASE FOR AN ACCIDENT


THE QUESTION IS
HOW DID IT FALL SO NEATLY ON TOP OF THE VICTIM ...RIGHT?
EXACTLY
IF IT COULD BE RUN AWAY FROM, IT WOULD BE A LITTLE BIT OF A CARELESS DEATH

HOW DID SHE NOT CATCH A HINT THAT THE STATUE BEHIND HER WAS GOING TO FALL
AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL....
THE SHADOW


IN A NORMAL SITUATION ...
ONE CAN INFER THAT FROM IT AND RUN AWAY
THE WAY IN WHICH THE LIGHT IS ADJUSTED ...
CERTAINLY CHANGES THE SHADOW'S SHAPE AND HEIGHT WHEN AN OBJECT FALLS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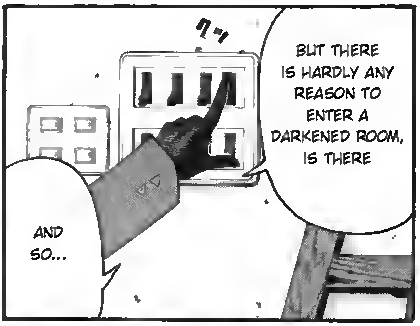
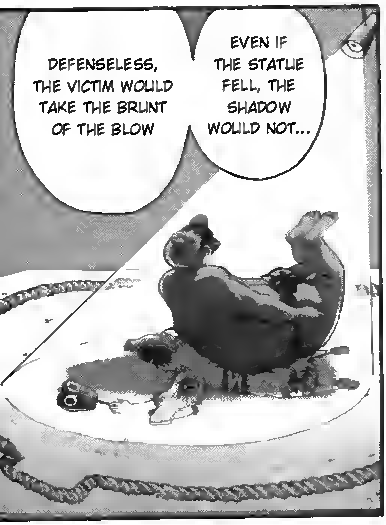

カチ
BUT THERE IS HARDLY ANY REASON TO ENTER A DARKENED ROOM, IS THERE
AND SO...

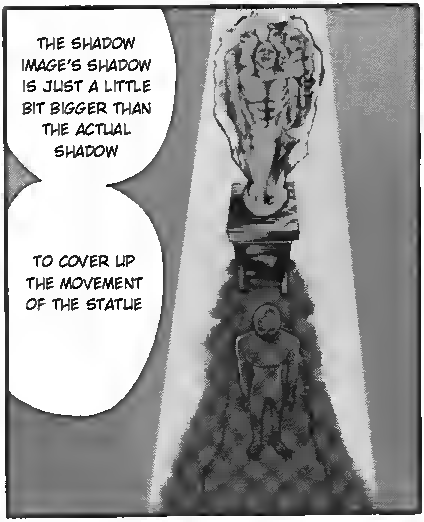
I DON'T GET WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE SAYING BUT
.....
IN THE END, THE SHAPE OF THE SHADOW WOULD CHANGE, YEAH
WITH ONE LIGHT

?
SET HIS HANDIWORK UP ON ONLY THIS ONE POINT
LIKE THIS, THE CRIMINAL...
THE ROOM'S LIGHT

GYAAAH
WATCH CAREFULLY !!
STILL, IF WE DON'T TRY TO MAKE IT FALL, WE WON'T KNOW FOR SURE, WILL WE
...SO IT WOULD ...
HUH!?
W... WAIT A MINUTE !!
TO MAKE IT EASY TO UNDERSTAND THE EFFECT OF THE LIGHT
THAT'S WHY WE WAITED FOR NIGHT, RIGHT, TEACHER!!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE ME FALL ON PURPOSE
?

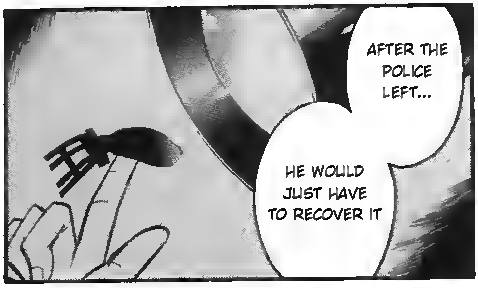
!!
YES...
ゴ
ゴ
THOUGH THE VICTIM WAS BEING CAREFUL...
THE SHADOW THAT REMAINS ...
IS THE TRICK THAT MADE HER UNABLE TO RUN FROM THE STATUE
FILM STUCK INSIDE THE LIGHT...
IN ADVANCE, TO GIVE OFF THE EXACT SAME SHADOW AS THE STATUE THERE

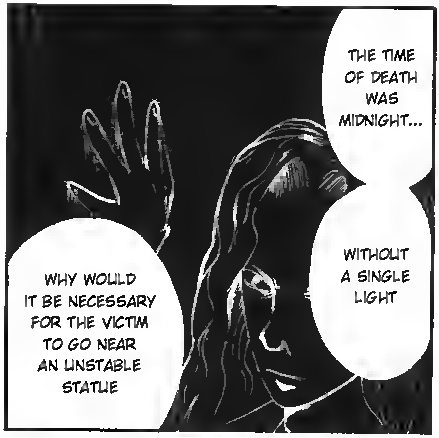

DEFENSELESS, THE VICTIM WOULD TAKE THE BRUNT OF THE BLOW
EVEN IF THE STATUE FELL, THE SHADOW WOULD NOT...

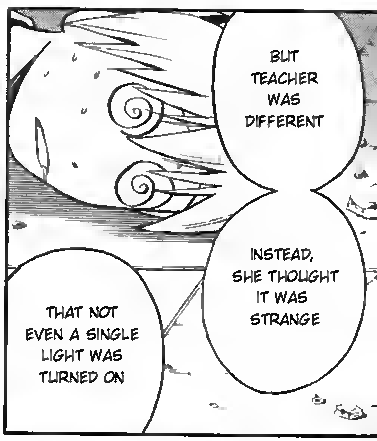

THE SHADOW IMAGE'S SHADOW IS JUST A LITTLE BIT BIGGER THAN THE ACTUAL SHADOW
TO COVER UP THE MOVEMENT OF THE STATUE

COULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN USED BY THE MURDERER TO PRETEND HIS MURDER WAS AN ACCIDENT
THEY WOULDN'T THINK THAT ONE OF THE LIGHTS THAT WAS TURNED OFF...
THE POLICE INVESTIGATION WAS AT MIDDAY

HE SIMPLY HAD TO TURN THE LIGHTS OFF, AND LEAVE THAT PLACE
PERHAPS HE WAS AFRAID THE FAMILY WOULD HEAR THE NOISE AND COME RUNNING
HE DID NOT RECOVER THE SHADOW IMAGE FROM THAT PLACE...


HE WOULD JUST HAVE TO RECOVER IT
AFTER THE POLICE LEFT...


THE TIME OF DEATH WAS MIDNIGHT...
WITHOUT A SINGLE LIGHT
WHY WOULD IT BE NECESSARY FOR THE VICTIM TO GO NEAR AN UNSTABLE STATUE

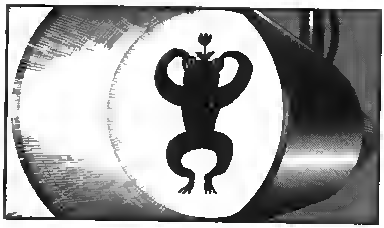

BUT TEACHER WAS DIFFERENT
INSTEAD, SHE THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE
THAT NOT EVEN A SINGLE LIGHT WAS TURNED ON

I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT THE CASE OF THE ESTEEMED MR. ESHIYA BUT
BY THE WAY
PERHAPS...
IN THE CASE OF HIS WIFE, TAE, WHAT YOU SAID TO LURE HER INTO STANDING IN THIS PLACE WAS

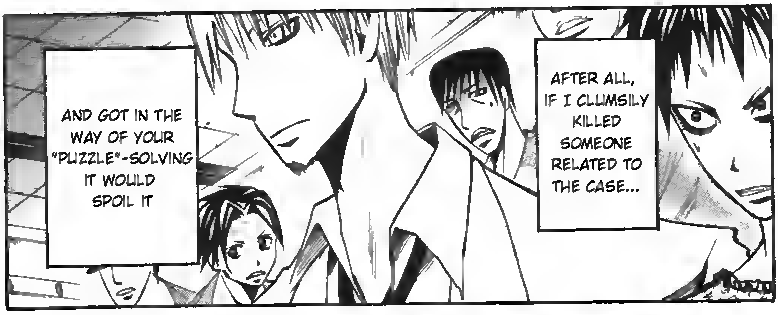
IF YOU THINK THAT FAR, IT BECOMES EASY TO NOTICE HOW THE LIGHT WAS SET UP
AFTER-WARDS
THIS EVENING, THE POLICE WERE BURDENED WITH BEING STATIONED HERE TOO

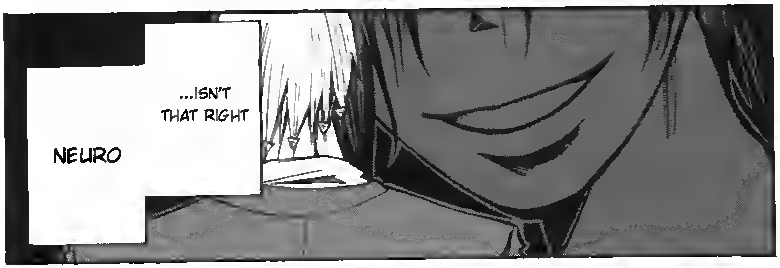
THE IMPATIENT CRIMINAL...
HAD TO REMOVE WHAT HE HAD SET UP BEFORE THE LIGHTS WERE TURNED BACK ON
IT WAS A GOOD THING YOU WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY

IT SEEMS YOU SOLVED IT EASILY
FROM THE "PUZZLE" I PREPARED, TO YET ANOTHER "PUZZLE" THAT WAS BORN .
...AS USUAL, NEURO
HURRY UP AND EAT IT
...WELL
YOUR LAST MEAL
I'LL LET YOU HAVE...

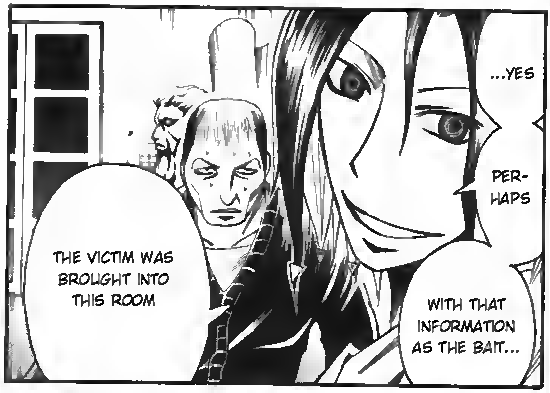


ABOVE ALL ELSE
IT CLEARLY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS MURDER
WAS SUSPICIOUSLY EASY TO PUT TOGETHER BUT
THE SHAPE I TRIED BECOMING THIS TIME...
CHAPTER 55 枝【BRANCH】

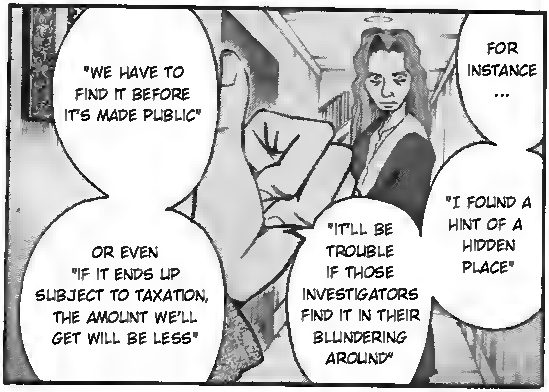


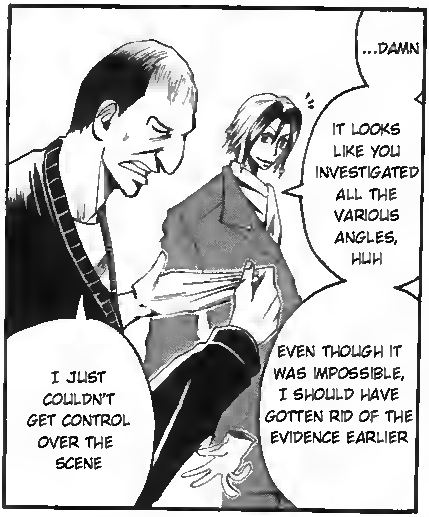


TEXT CLEANING: ANONYMOUS TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS EDITING: ANONYMOUS DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST. ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!


...YES
PER-
HAPS
THE VICTIM WAS BROUGHT INTO THIS ROOM
WITH THAT INFORMATION AS THE BAIT...

...IT WAS
THAT THERE WAS A HIDDEN FORTUNE IN THIS ROOM OR SOME SUCH THING PERHAPS...?
.....


"WE HAVE TO FIND IT BEFORE IT'S MADE PUBLIC"
OR EVEN "IF IT ENDS UP SUBJECT TO TAXATION, THE AMOUNT WE'LL GET WILL BE LESS"
"IT'LL BE TROUBLE IF THOSE INVESTIGATORS FIND IT IN THEIR BLUNDERING AROUND"
FOR INSTANCE ...
"I FOUND A HINT OF A HIDDEN PLACE"


...DAMN
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU INVESTIGATED ALL THE VARIOUS ANGLES, HUH
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN RID OF THE EVIDENCE EARLIER
I JUST COULDN'T GET CONTROL OVER THE SCENE

.....

"THE DIRECTION OF THE LIGHTING SHOWS A HINT OF WHERE THE TREASURE IS"... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT IS WHAT I SAID, I THINK
TAE STOOD THERE FOR ME REAL EASILY
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU WERE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT...
SINCE I, HIS WIFE'S BROTHER...
WAS IN THE POSITION OF MANAGEMENT AS HIS ART DEALER
THAT OLD FART, ESHIYA, WAS PRETTY EASY, TOO ..
WHA...
KAZUSHIGE
WHY DID YOU TAKE THE LIBERTY OF MOVING MY ARTWORK?

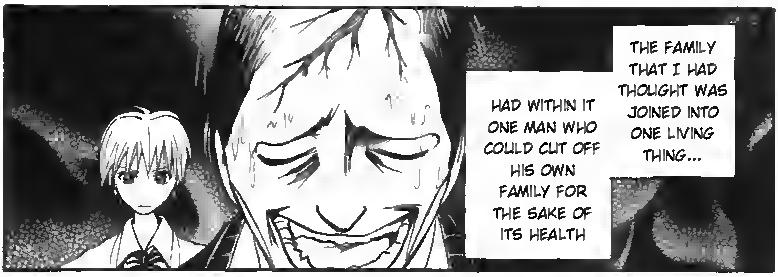
ALL OF YOU ARE ALWAYS LIKE THAT
YOU START OFF SAYING YOU'RE DOING IT FOR MY SAKE...
AND SELFISHLY EAT AWAY AT MY SPACE
ER... HA HA HA
IT WAS THE LIGHTING CONDITIONS
I THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU TO WORK, TOO
SUCH MOCKERY
AND
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT ENDED UP MAKING A KID WITH MY LITTLE SISTER
WE CAN'T HELP BEING FORTUNATE
I'VE BEEN WORKING MY HARDEST AT MANAGING YOUR WORK
THAT'S NOT VERY NICE OF YOU TO SAY
.....
WE...
AREN'T WE JUST YOUR PRECIOUS FAMILY
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE PAST YOUR PEAK AND YOUR WORK IS ONLY SELLING FOR A MODERATE PRICE

ガタ
ガタ
AT ANY RATE, RETURN THIS STATUE TO ITS ORIGINAL PLACE
I'D LIKE YOU TO NOT MOVE IT AGAIN AFTER THIS
……
FINE
BECAUSE THIS ROOM...
IS NO LONGER YOURS
AGAIN?
I CAN'T PROMISE THAT...
ゾー
グラ

ONE YEAR AGO, THE POLICE DID ME THE FAVOR OF CALLING IT AN ACCIDENT
THIS IS... WELL, SHIT
IT'S THE FAULT OF THAT UNNECESSARY INVESTIGATOR...
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE OLD MAN!!
I KNEW YOU WERE TRYING TO GET AT HIS INHERITANCE!!
BUT MOM...
WHY'D YOU, HER OWN BROTHER, DO THAT TO MY REAL MOM!!
SHUT THE FUCK UP, ASSHOLE !!
WHAT KIND OF GRUDGE DID YOU HAVE AGAINST MOM THAT YOU HAD TO KILL HER!!
YU-YUKA...!!
PEOPLE THAT ARE CONCERNED WITH THE SMALL "BRANCHES" ARE EASIEST TO DEAL WITH
..HMPH YUKA...
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU AND THE TWO PEOPLE I KILLED...

I DON'T CARE ABOUT WHO GAVE BIRTH TO YOU
ゴボ
ゴボ
BUT
ゴボ
YOU'RE STRANGELY CONCERNED ABOUT THAT!!
SORT OF THE SAME AS NEURO
...BUT
"IF THAT'S WHAT YOU DID, YOU HAVE TO GET MARRIED"
"COME NOW, YOUR OWN BROTHER CAN'T KILL YOU OVER THE FORTUNE HE WANTS" AND SO ON
IT'S A MISTAKE TO THINK THAT OUR CHOICES IN LIFE ARE TIED TO OUR BLOOD RELATIVES!!
I'M DIFFERENT
WHEN THAT SORT OF THING HAPPENS, I DON'T LOSE MY WAY
バシャ
バシャ
WHAT WE CALL OUR FAMILY IS A BRANCH THAT HAS SPRUNG FROM A SINGLE TREE
BUT WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY

RATHER, YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME!!
THANKS TO ME PRUNING OFF THE BRANCH, THE AMOUNT OF THE INHERITANCE YOU ALL WILL GET HAS INCREASED, HASN'T IT?
THE REMAINING BRANCHES GET THICKER AND LONGER!!
CUTTING ONE BRANCH FOR THE HEALTH OF THE TREE
B— BROTHER
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH LOVING ONE'S FAMILY!!
IT CAN'T BE ...THAT HE'S THIS KIND OF PERSON
DOES IT!? HA HA HA HA HA HA!!
...YOU... BASTARD...


THE FAMILY THAT I HAD THOUGHT WAS JOINED INTO ONE LIVING THING...
HAD WITHIN IT ONE MAN WHO COULD CUT OFF HIS OWN FAMILY FOR THE SAKE OF ITS HEALTH

A PERSON WHO LAUGHS AT THE MURDER LIKE THAT...
CAN THEY REALLY BE CALLED FAMILY?
ALTHOUGH JUST THE DEATH OF A FAMILY MEMBER ALONE IS SAD...
WHEN THEY'VE BEEN KILLED, IT'S EVEN HARDER TO TAKE

NH?
IS INVERSELY CONNECTED TO THE PROSPERITY OF THE FAMILY AS A WHOLE
トン
I SEE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE
HEH
YEAH, THAT'S IT
THE AMOUNT OF BRANCHES YOU CUT AWAY

WELL THEN, LET US PRUNE AWAY YOUR BRANCH
EVEN WHEN THE REMAINING BRANCHES ARE LARGER...
IT DOESN'T HELP IF THEY ARE ROTTEN
UOOOOO
AH
AH
AAH
?
WHEN MURDERERS LIKE YOU SPROUT FROM THE SAME TRUNK
THE REST OF THE BRANCHES END UP ROTTEN

AH
NOW JUST...
HURRY UP AND ACCEPT YOUR DEFEAT

EVEN IF HE CAN EAT THE "PUZZLE"
HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FAMILIES
WELL...
TO NEURO...

ドロ...

AND SO...
AS ALWAYS
...TIME TO EAT

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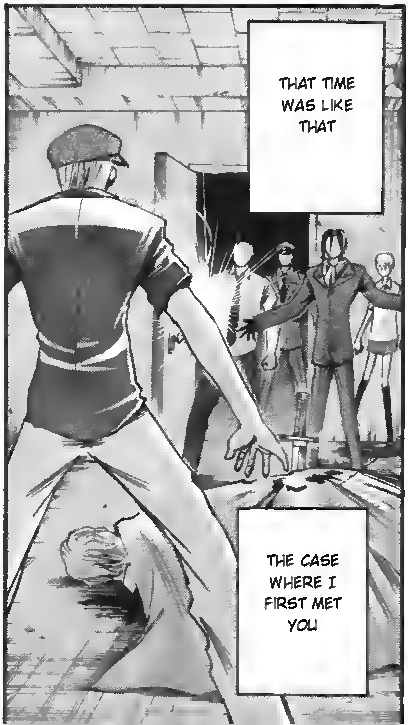
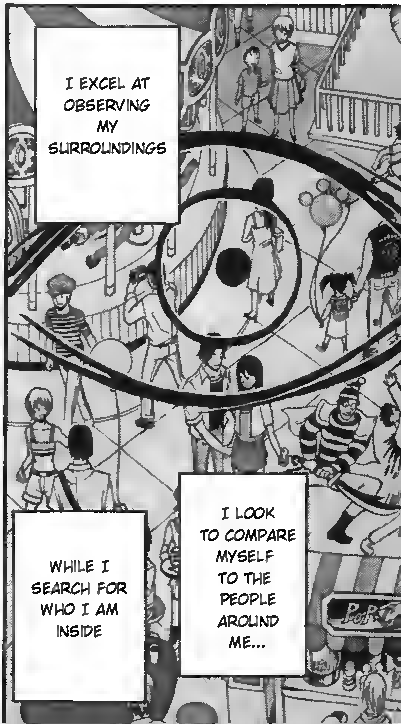
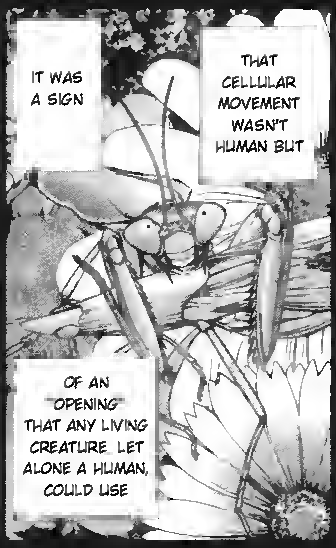
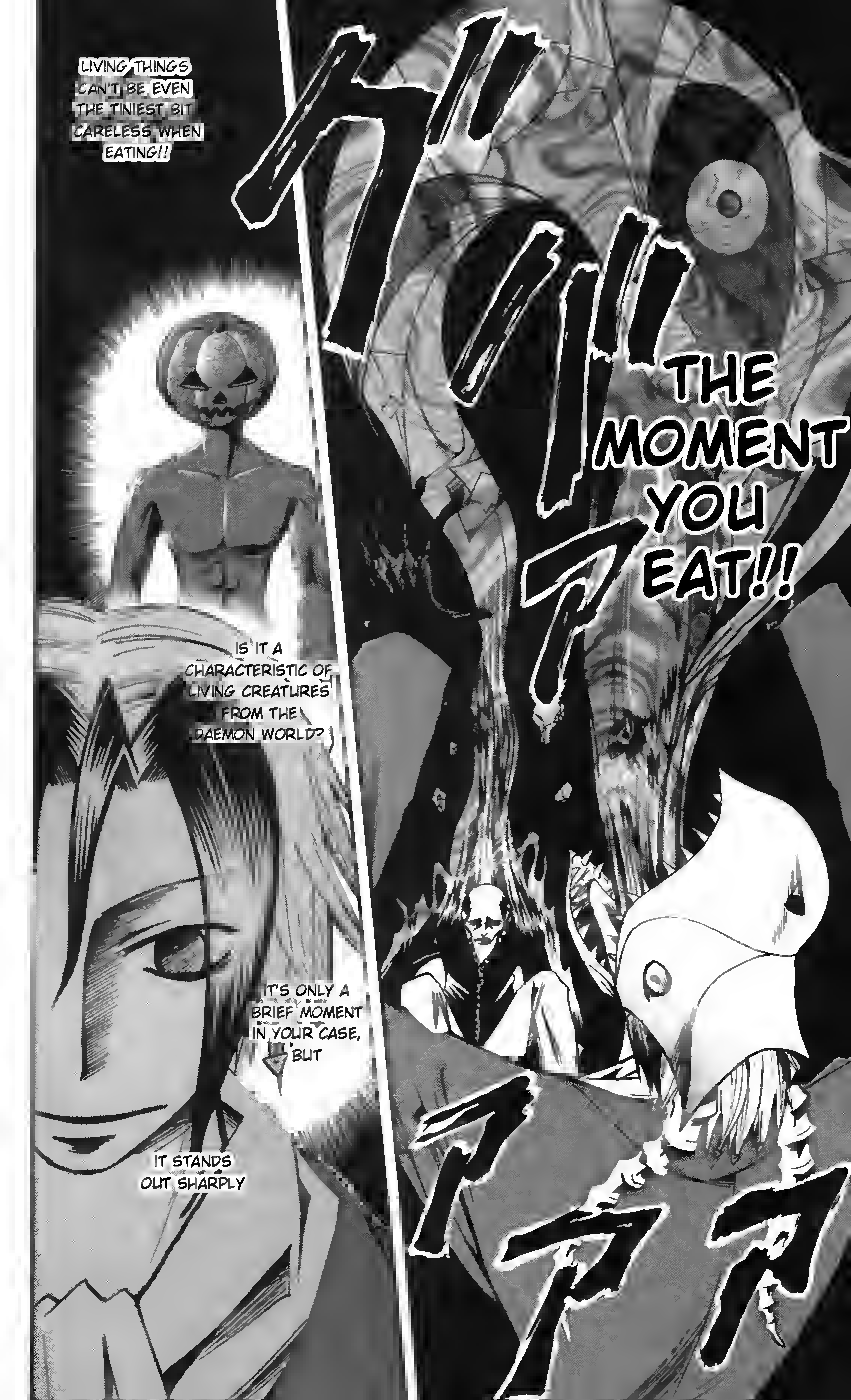
THAT'S THE MOMENT...
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR, NEURO!!

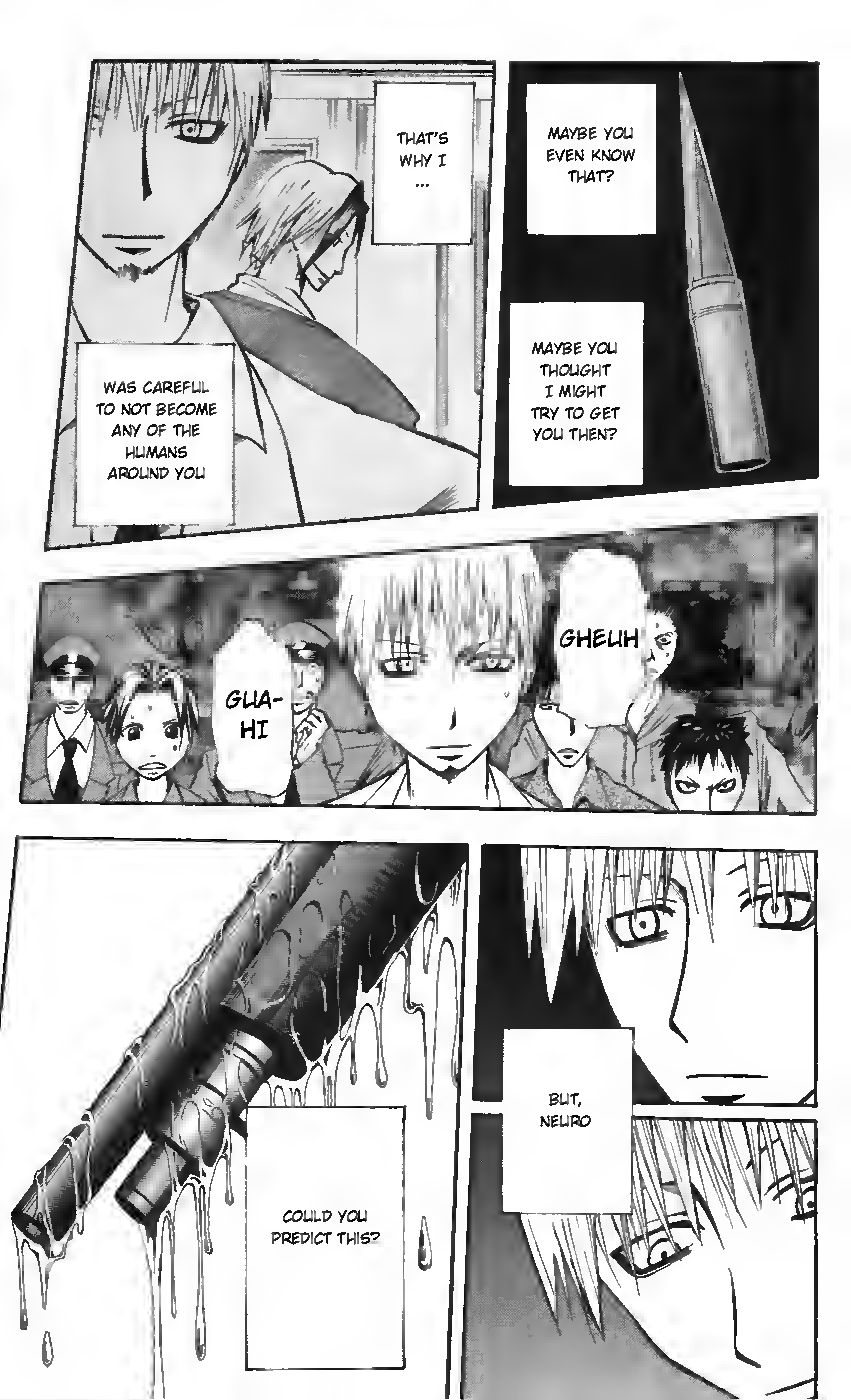

THAT TIME WAS LIKE THAT
THE CASE WHERE I FIRST MET YOU


I EXCEL AT OBSERVING MY SURROUNDINGS
WHILE I SEARCH FOR WHO I AM INSIDE
I LOOK TO COMPARE MYSELF TO THE PEOPLE AROUND ME...



IN OTHER WORDS


LIVING THINGS CAN'T BE EVEN THE TINIEST BIT CARELESS WHEN EATING!!
IS IT A CHARACTERISTIC OF LIVING CREATURES FROM THE DAEMON WORLD?
IT'S ONLY A BRIEF MOMENT IN YOUR CASE, BUT
IT STANDS OUT SHARPLY
THE MOMENT YOU EAT!!


THAT'S WHY I ...
WAS CAREFUL TO NOT BECOME ANY OF THE HUMANS AROUND YOU
MAYBE YOU EVEN KNOW THAT?
MAYBE YOU THOUGHT I MIGHT TRY TO GET YOU THEN?
GHEHH
GUA-HI
BUT, NEURO
COULD YOU PREDICT THIS?

IT'S TRUE THERE IS A LIMIT TO MY CELLULAR CHANGE
SKELETON, ORGANS, AND ALL THAT
THERE'S NO DENYING THAT THEY HAVE TO BE THERE BUT
ANYWAY, IT LOOKS LIKE I WASN'T FOUND OUT
IM SO GLAD!

ガバッ
シャアッ!!
WILL YOU LET ME SEE... YOUR INSIDES?
...NOW THEN, NEURO

A STRONG SENSE
OF DANGER

TEXT CLEANING: ANONYMOUS TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS EDITING: ANONYMOUS DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

THERE CAME ALONG A DOG, LOOKING UP AT THE MOON AND THINKING
AND SO WE SWITCHED PLACES
I WAS VERY GLAD...
THAT WHILE I WAS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO I SHOULD TURN MYSELF INTO...

UHH
NOW HOW DO I PULL THE EARS BACK IN AGAIN
AND SEEING THE REALITY WERE TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS
HEARING THE RUMORS ...
CHAPTER 56 ○【CIRCLE】

CHAPTER 56
○【CIRCLE】
KAITOU "X" !!
THE TERRIBLE CRIMINAL BEYOND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING ...
..... OH WELL
...THIS IS
ズキブキ
...NOW THEN
A POINT-BLANK SHOT TO THE HEAD FROM A SHOTGUN
WOULD KILL A NORMAL HUMAN, BUT
...WHAT WOULD IT DO TO YOU, I WONDER?

.....
THIS IS...
...WELL
DEAD IS DEAD BUT...
...HUH
ゴゴゴ
ゴッ
!!
THIS IS WRONG
OKAY, ONE MORE SHOT...
ズッ……
THESE AREN'T THE INSIDES I WANTED TO SEE

……
ドムドム
ドムドムドム

.....HUH!?
ガ
クッ
...WHA...
ダラン
MR. SASAZUKA!!
SIGNAL RECIEVED FROM THE DETECTIVE AT THE SCENE!!
KAITOU "X" HAS APPEARED AT THE MANSION!!
BEEP
ガチャ
バタ

WAITING PERSONNEL, GET TO THE SCENE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!
WE REPEAT !!
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES, GET THE PLACE SURROUNDED IN A WAY THAT X DOESN'T NOTICE
MR. LISU!!!
HE MUST HAVE SHOWED UP
JUST LIKE MR. SASAZUKA HAD PLANNED ...!!
...HMPH
THE PROBLEM FROM HERE ON IS
UNTIL WE KNOW WHERE X APPEARED FROM
WE CAN'T MOBILIZE THE RIOT POLICE OR THE SPECIAL ATTACK TEAM

WHAT'S THIS?
WHEN I'D THOUGHT YOU QUIETLY STEPPED ASIDE...
YOU WROTE UP SOME KIND OF PLAN THIS TIME?
...I GAVE IT A BIT OF THOUGHT
IT'S A NET TO SURROUND X USING THE AREA AROUND THE MANSION AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
.....
IF IT WAS WELL-EXECUTED
WE MIGHT CATCH HIM WITH JUST PLAINCLOTHES COPS
X
B
C
FOOLISHNESS
IT'S TOO GREAT A RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE TO STOP X AT THE SCENE
AS MUCH AS WE KNOW OF X'S ABILITIES..
TRANS-FORMATION AND BRUTE STRENGTH
THAT AND SUPERHUMAN VITALITY
UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE'D HAVE TO MAKE A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE THAT GOES BEYOND REGULATION
SINCE IF X APPEARS WE'LL BE LIABLE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS AT THE SCENE

I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY
AT THAT TIME...
THE DELICATE BUSINESS BETWEEN ME AND X WILL COME BACK
JUST SAY I HAVE A PRIVATE GRUDGE AND I RECKLESSLY ATTACKED HIM OR WHATEVER
I MUST'VE MOVED TO ATTACK WITH LESS HESITATION THAN THE OTHER DETECTIVES
.....
.....WELL...
IT'S TRUE ENOUGH THAT THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK X PERSONALLY
...THAT'S A FAIRLY...
COLD WAY OF SEEING YOURSELF AS A PAWN, SASAZUKA
ニヤリ
BUT AS YOU SAY...
HE'S NOT AN OPPONENT YOU CAN CATCH IF YOU GET CAUGHT UP IN YOUR OWN PERSONAL FEELINGS

AS THE JAPANESE POLICE
WE HAVE TO CATCH HIM ALIVE
WHAT'S CERTAIN IS
IF WE AREN'T PREPARED FOR A FEW SACRIFICES, X'S DAMAGE WILL SPREAD, AND
IF HE SWITCHED WITH ANY OF THEM, IT'D BE A PROBLEM
OF COURSE MY PLAN HAS TO BE KEPT SECRET FROM TH PEOPLE IN THE HOUSE, EVEN MY SUBORDINATES
I'LL CONTACT YOU AT A SET TIME TO LET YOU KNOW I'M SAFE
SO WE HAVE TO PUT EVERYTHING INTO STOPPING HIM AT THE SCENE
THE FACT IS HIS STRENGTH IS AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY
THEN WE CAN GET HIM UNDER CONTROL
AFTER WE HAVE HIM COMPLETELY SURROUNDED
!
AS IF THIS PLAN WOULD WORK!!
THE TACTICS THAT YOUR CHILDISH BRAIN COMES UP WITH IN THE END
REJECTED
.....

KEEP THE HANDS OF THE INEXPERIENCED OFF THE COUNTER-ATTACK PLANNING!!
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE!!
MAKING THAT MANY OFFICERS WAIT SO CLOSE BY THEY'LL STAND OUT
AND IT'LL GET LEAKED TO X!!
FOR STARTERS, THE POSITIONING OF THE OFFICERS IS TOO POOR!
WHAT IF THEY HAVE TO RUN AWAY QUICKLY...
..... THANK YOU
I'LL PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THE HOUSE
I GUESS IF YOU'VE ALREADY PREPARED THIS MUCH THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO...
JUST DO TRY YOUR HARDEST TO NOT KILL X
OF BEING ABLE TO PICK OUT WHAT SHAPE HE'S IN... .....SHIT
IT'S TRUE THAT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE HAVE RIGHT NOW...

YAKO...
GET AWAY FROM HIM AND COME HERE
IT'LL BE TWO OR THREE MINUTES...
FOR LISUI'S OPERATION, UNTIL HE'S COMPLETELY SURROUNDED AND THEY CAN CHARGE IN!!
ISHIGAKI ...
GET THE RESIDENTS OF THE HOUSE TO SAFETY
THE REST OF YOU, AIM FOR HIM
BUT X'S APPEARANCE WAS A HUGE SHOCK!!
EVEN IF THEY COULD FIGURE OUT THE PLAN THAT HAD BEEN HIDDEN FROM THEM UP UNTIL NOW, HIS SUBORDINATES WERE TOO GREATLY SHAKEN
AH
AH
ALL WE COULD DO IN THOSE MINUTES...
WAS WAIT AND PRAY THAT X COULDN'T RECOVER FROM THE DAMAGE...
ガク
ガク
ガク
ガクン
バサ
ジーッ

IDIOT
DON'T GET NEAR HIM!!
I'M NOT IN A HURRY
IF HE'S EAGER FOR ME, BIG DEAL
WHEN I GOT CALMED DOWN A LOT MORE, I COULD SEE
I WAS HONESTLY SURPRISED AT THE TRANS-FORMATION BUT
AND HE'S WOUNDED AND DROPPED HIS WEAPON!!
HE'S JUST A TINY LITTLE BRAT!!
FROM START TO END, IT WAS ALWAYS IN THE RED AND SUFFERING THROUGH POOR MANAGEMENT AND I WAITED...
EVEN WITH THE OLD MAN'S MONEY...
A FIGHTING ASSOCIATION, KINDA LIKE A SMALL THEATER GROUP, WAS SPONSORED FOR THE LAST SEVEN YEARS...

I COULD BE FAMOUS IN ONE BREATH...
THE MOMENT OF THE BIG MATCH!!
じっ
I'LL BE FAMOUS FOR KNOCKING OUT AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL
!
IN A SINGLE BREATH, I'LL RISE TO STARDOM!!
I'LL BE STANDING IN THE CENTER OF IT ALL!!

WHAT?

USING MY FIGHTER'S INSTINCT...
HE IS...
TOO MUCH FOR ME!!
I'LL LOSE!!

I'LL BE KILLED!!
IF I'M INSIDE THE CIRCLE NOW...
NOBODY EXCEPT THOSE WHO'D BEEN ON THE VERGE OF DYING WOULD UNDERSTAND
THE AREA OF DEATH!!!
MOVE THAT FOOT...
HURRY UP...
HURRY UP...
GET OUT...
HAA, HAA ...THAT WAS CLOSE...
I THOUGHT MY HEAD WOULD GET CRUSHED OR SOMETHING
WHAT A GUY...

ビチャ
!!
ビチャ
YEAH
NOT BAD MR. DETECTIVE
ミュッ
I DROPPED MY WEAPON WITH THE FIRST SHOT
THE NEXT FOUR SHOTS WERE TO DESTROY THE JOINTS OF ALL FOUR LIMBS
AND WITHOUT HAVING TO RELOAD, YOU HOLD BACK ONE SHOT TO PROTECT YOUR SURROUNDINGS
WHEN THERE'S NOT MUCH DATA ABOUT ME
THAT'S VERY PRECISE AND COOL-HEADED
ズルル

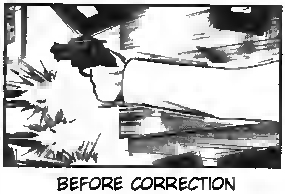
AND
THEY'RE MOVING TO AVOID BEING SEEN OR HEARD BUT I CAN OBSERVE A TRACE OF IT
OUTSIDE, THERE ARE TWENTY-NINE... NO, THIRTY-ONE OFFICERS
I WONDER IF TWO MINUTES IS TOO SOON FOR THEM TO HAVE SURROUNDED US COMPLETELY?
……!!
I SEE, USING A KNIFE YOU'D HIDDEN THERE
HOLDING ONTO THE LAST BULLET JUST IN CASE YOU HAVE TO KILL ME

BUT MR. DETECTIVE
ギュ...
IF YOU'D ATTACKED WITH THE INTENT TO KILL FROM THE BEGINNING
YOU WOULD HAVE GOT ME
メキ
バキ
ガギッ
!!!
UNTRAINED STRENGTH
GUNS, KNIVES
STRATEGY, NOTHING WORKED
A WAY
RUN
THIS...
IS X!!

EVALUATING YOUR COURAGE, SKILL, AND WISDOM.
I WON'T DESTROY YOU TODAY
ドサッ
BUT
IT WAS A LITTLE BIT FUN
...NOW THEN
I CAN'T REALLY STAY LONG
WHAT I HAVE TO DO
THE THING THAT I DIDN'T END UP DOING...

THINGS I CONSTANTLY MAKE A MISTAKE ON: #1

THE HAND HOLDING A GUN



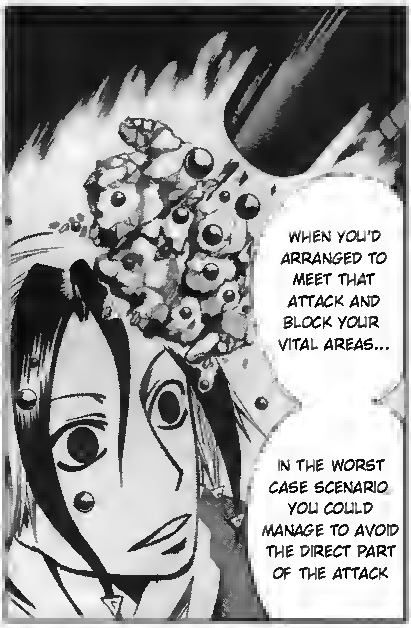
BEFORE CORRECTION

SO FAR, EVEN WHEN HE'D BEEN SHOT...
NEURO WAS UNHARMED ...!!
CHAPTER 57
X [FAILURE]
X IS AFTER NEURO NEXT!!
HE SAID HE WAS DEAD A MINUTE AGO BUT...
NEURO JUST CAN'T BE DEAD!!

TEXT CLEANING: ANONYMOUS TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS EDITING: ANONYMOUS DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST. ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

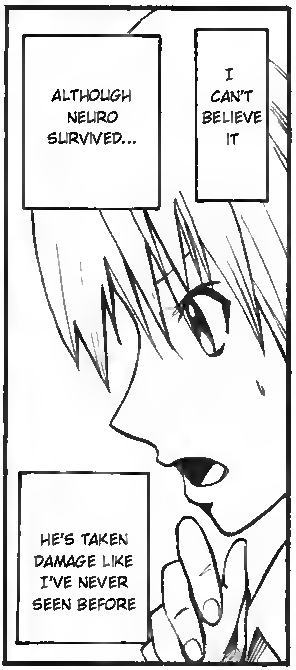
CHAPTER 57 X【FAILURE】

AA-AH
BUT I THOUGHT I'D KILLED YOU THIS TIME
NEURO
THE DEAD ONE IS ONLY THE GUY NEXT TO YOU THAT TOOK THE SHOT...
I COMPLETELY FAILED TO KILL YOU, THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, I SHOULD HAVE LOOKED MORE CAREFULLY
WHEN YOU FLUNG HIM ASIDE
IT WAS AN UNNATURALLY FLASHY WAY OF SCATTERING GARBAGE EVERYWHERE
YOU USED THAT GARBAGE...
TO BE READY, EVEN THOUGH I WAS AIMING FOR YOU AT THE MOMENT OF YOUR MEAL


WHEN YOU'D ARRANGED TO MEET THAT ATTACK AND BLOCK YOUR VITAL AREAS...
IN THE WORST CASE SCENARIO YOU COULD MANAGE TO AVOID THE DIRECT PART OF THE ATTACK

THE INSTANT YOU WERE LEFT OPEN
EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHO I HAD TURNED INTO...
YOU KNEW THE GENERAL DIRECTION THE ATTACK WOULD COME FROM

AND NOW X IS PROBABLY GOING TO COME FINISH NEURO OFF
ひた
ひた
ひた
NEURO TRULY IS INJURED ...
CAN HE PROTECT AGAINST THAT!?


I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
ALTHOUGH NEURO SURVIVED...
HE'S TAKEN DAMAGE LIKE I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE

UM
ERR..
X
CAN I...
ASK YOU ...A LITTLE QUESTION?
UNTIL THE POLICE GET HERE
I HAVE TO BUY US SOME TIME!
I'M SCARED, BUT
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING
.....
ギュ
OH YEAH, I'VE BORROWED YOUR SHAPE BEFORE, I THINK
OH WELL
FOR THAT, I'LL GIVE YOU AN ANSWER AS MY WAY OF SHOWING MY APPRECIATION
..... WHAT?
I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW

E-ER...
THE GOAL YOU HAD ORIGINALLY...
WAS... "TO KILL HIM" TOO, BUT...
YOU HAD ANOTHER REASON, RIGHT?

..... THAT IS...

THEY SAY IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY VALUE...
THIS STATUE, "MY FINAL SELF"
AND YOU TOLD US YOU WERE GOING TO STEAL IT
THIS STATUE...
WHAT VALUE DID YOU FIND, THAT YOU WERE GOING TO STEAL IT?

THE STRENGTH OF THE EMOTION THAT THE CREATOR PUTS INTO IT
ONE OF THE ELEMENTS THAT GIVES ART A VALUE IS..
IT TOUCHES THEM EVEN MORESO
SO MUCH SO THAT IN MANY PEOPLE THAT THE EMOTION RESONATES WITH...
OH...
THAT'S EASY
HATRED
..... HATRED?
THE FEELING THAT RESONATED WITHIN ESHIYA TOUGO WAS...
THAT STATUE'S CREATOR AND I...
HATRED
WHICH IDEAS FROM WHAT SORT OF LIFESTYLE RESONATE WITH ME
WHOSE FEELINGS RESONATE WITH ME
THAT IS HOW I CAN SEARCH FOR A HINT OF WHO I AM INSIDE
IN THAT WAY, I CAN COME TO UNDERSTAND MY OWN HUMAN NATURE

THROUGHOUT HIS PRIME, HIS WORKS WERE ALL SUPERB
A MAN WHO DIDN'T BELIEVE IN OTHERS AT ALL
AGAINST THE WORLD, FILLED WITH THE FEELING OF HATRED
THE POWER OF THAT EMOTION WAS PRAISED FOR MAKING THE HEARTS OF MANY SHUDDER IN A STRANGELY BEWITCHING WAY
RESONATING WITH HIM ..
PROBABLY REPRESENTS A LOT OF HATRED WITHIN MY TRUE IDENTITY
I KNOW THAT, BUT...
I FEEL A LITTLE BIT RELIEVED
.....
.....BUT
AFTER HE GOT MARRIED...
HIS WORKS GRADUALLY LOST THEIR VALUE

BUT...
THAT'S NOT IT
I THINK THE ORIGINAL PURITY OF HIS FEELINGS HAD WEAKENED OR SOMETHING
DIDN'T A STRONGER FEELING...
FILL ESHIYA TOUGO ...?
IN THE MIDST OF A USELESS FAMILY THAT INCREASED ONE BY ONE
HE ENDED UP LOSING HIS HATRED
YOU GET IT, DON'T YOU
..... WOW...
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT
.....!!

THOSE WHO ARE GOOD AT OBSER-VATION
WILL IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTAND IF THEY LOOK AT THE "FLOW"
IN THIS STATUE "MY FINAL SELF" TOO
EVERYTHING HAS A FIGURATIVE "FLOW" TO IT
IF YOU LOOK TO SEE WHERE THAT "FLOW" GATHERS
THAT'S THE PART THE CREATOR MOST WANTED TO EMPHASIZE
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU CAN SEE THE PLACE THAT THE EMOTION IS HELD
FROM THE ROUGH, BROKEN-DOWN FIGURE...
THE "FLOW" OF LIFE IS BEING TRANSFERRED INTO THE SMOOTH FIGURE
BUT FINALLY...
ALL OF THE "FLOW" GATHERS BEAUTIFULLY INTO THIS SPHERE

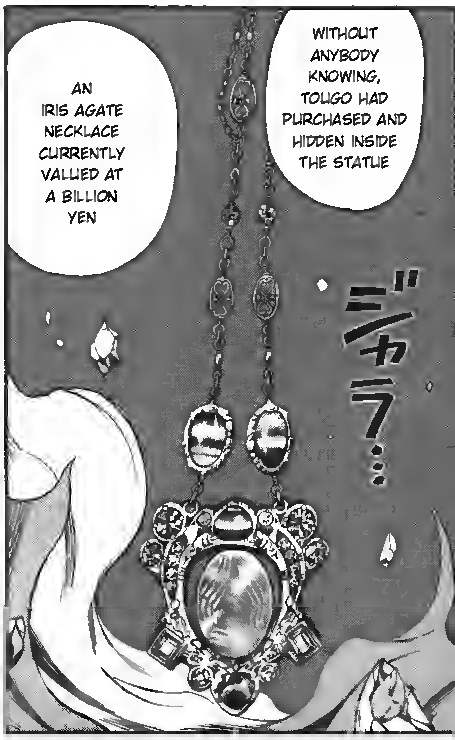
WHILE HATING THAT FAMILY
BUT
HE NURTURED ONE EMOTION
LOOK AT THE WAY IT TAKES IT IN ITS ARMS
THE FAMILY THAT HOLDS HIM, WHILE CONSIDERATE ON THE SURFACE, IS FILTHY ON THE INSIDE
JUST SOAKING UP THE MONEY FROM THE TALENTED CREATIONS OF TOUGO
.....!!
PEOPLE SAY THIS WORK IS UNFINISHED...
BECAUSE PROGRESS STOPPED AFTER CRAFTING IT FROM CLAY
WHEN IT WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO BE A BRONZE STATUE
45

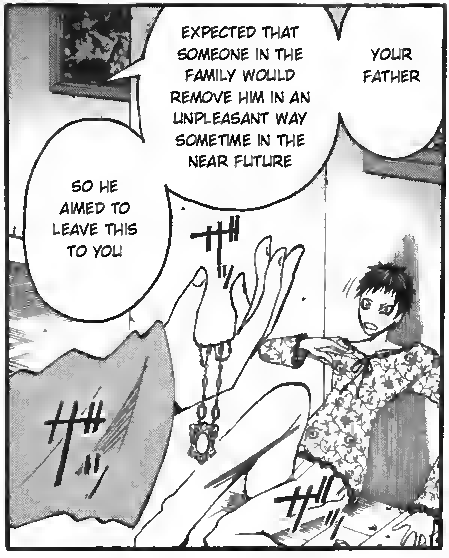
THE WORK STOPPED AT THE CLAY STAGE ON PURPOSE
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
I DON'T FEEL THERE'S ANY NEED TO ADD ANYTHING TO IT
BUT NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'S BEEN COMPLETED
DEALS IN VALUABLE PIECES OF ART UNDER THE COUNTER
BUT ONE OF MY FRIENDS, NEURO
INEVITABLY, ITS STRENGTH IS VERY WEAK
ESPECIALLY THE SPHERICAL PART THAT MOST SHOWS THE CREATOR'S EMOTIONS
コン
コン
THERE'S NO CORE OR FIBERS INSIDE IT
AT SOME POINT IN TIME, IT COULD GET BROKEN
……
THEY WERE AN AQUAINTANCE OF TOUGO'S, BUT
THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ONE PIECE THAT THEY'D SOLD TO HIM HAD GONE
EVEN THOUGH I WANTED IT TOO

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND AFTERWARDS
A PIECE WHOSE LOCATION WAS UNKNOWN AFTER TOUGO'S DEATH...
AND THE REASON HE MADE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART THE MOST FRAGILE

THE TURN HIS EMOTIONS HAD TAKEN WAS, FOR THE MOST PART
DIRECTED TOWARDS ONLY ONE PERSON
HIS WORKS WEREN'T APPRECIATED BY THE WORLD IN HIS LATER YEARS
AND IT'S NOT BECAUSE HIS EMOTIONS WEAKENED

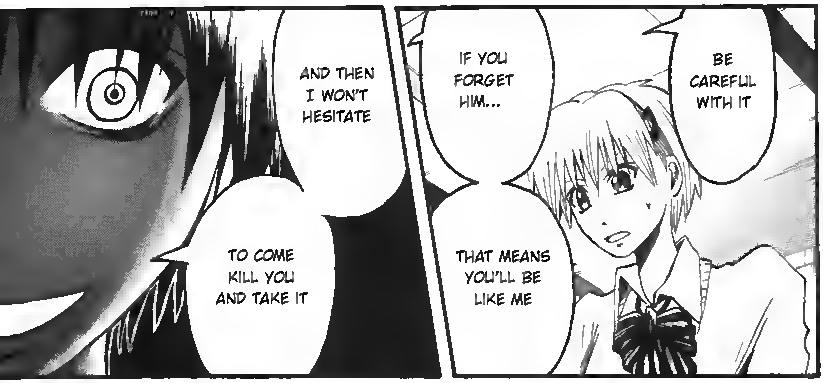
DRAWN TO HIS COLLECTION OF WORKS
THEN, HE HAD TO MAKE THE PERSON HE WANTED TO LEAVE IT TO
SO THIS PERSON WOULD DISCOVER IT RIGHT AWAY IF THE STATUE WAS BROKEN
MAKING THEM COME OCCASIONALLY TO THIS WORKSPACE

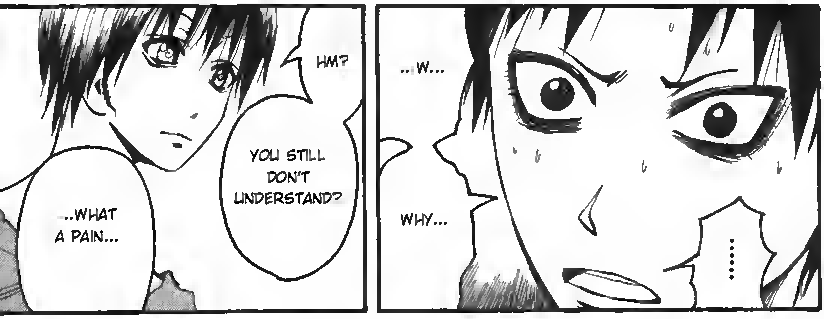

AN IRIS AGATE NECKLACE CURRENTLY VALUED AT A BILLION YEN
WITHOUT ANYBODY KNOWING, TOUGO HAD PURCHASED AND HIDDEN INSIDE THE STATUE
ニヤリ…


YOUR FATHER
EXPECTED THAT SOMEONE IN THE FAMILY WOULD REMOVE HIM IN AN UNPLEASANT WAY SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE
SO HE AIMED TO LEAVE THIS TO YOU

HIS REAL DAUGHTER
YOU, ESHIYA YUKA
ビク!

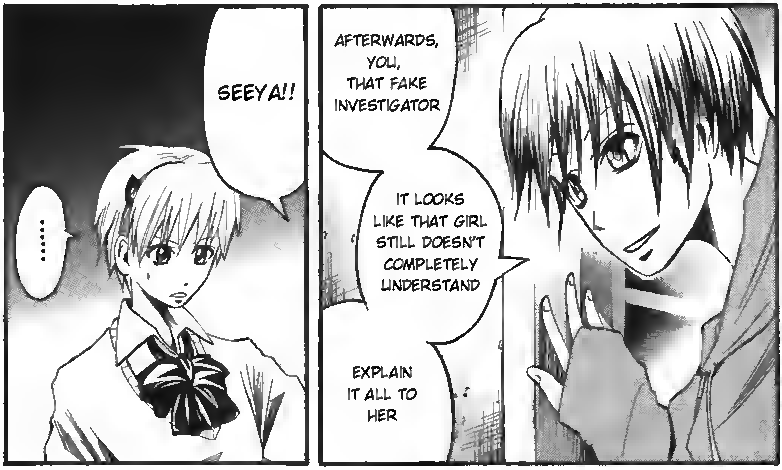
I DON'T NEED IT
BUT THE EMOTION IN THIS
IS AN EMOTION THAT RESONATES IN A WAY ONLY A PARENT AND A CHILD'S CELLS COULD
ジャラ


AND THEN I WON'T HESITATE
TO COME KILL YOU AND TAKE IT
IF YOU FORGET HIM...
BE CAREFUL WITH IT
THAT MEANS YOU'LL BE LIKE ME


HM?
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND?
..WHAT A PAIN...
...W...
WHY...
.....

...OH GEEZ
WHEN I DO ANYTHING EXTRA...
I CAN'T GET TO THE MOST IMPORTANT PART
NEURO!!
HE'S COMPLETELY SURROUNDED!!
WE'RE STARTING TO SEND IN THE FIRST SQUAD!!

LET'S EXTEND THE BATTLE!!
THIS WAY OF BREAKING IT UP IS
GOING TO GIVE BOTH YOU AND ME INDIGESTION
ANYWAY, IF YOU DON'T COME FOLLOW ME...
YOU MIGHT GIVE AWAY THE REALITY OF YOUR TRUE FORM
.....


AFTERWARDS, YOU, THAT FAKE INVESTIGATOR
IT LOOKS LIKE THAT GIRL STILL DOESN'T COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND
EXPLAIN IT ALL TO HER
SEEYA!!
.....

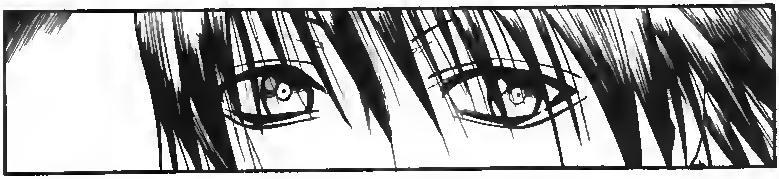
ハッ
ハッ
ハッ
ハッ
ハッ
ハッ
ヒュッ
NEURO
FOLLOW ME
DON'T LOSE HIM, FIRE!!
HEY, HE'S GETTING AWAY!!

IN THE END, I COULDN'T CATCH A SINGLE HINT OF
ANYTHING ABOUT WHO HE IS INSIDE
THE FIRST TIME I HAD LAID EYES ON KAITOU "X" AT FULL POWER...
FROM HIS APPEARANCE TO WHEN HE DEPARTED WAS TRULY KALEIDOSCOPIC
AH...
ドカ
ARE YOU OKAY!!
ANOTHER SURVIVOR...
HUH...
.....
NEURO!!

ELIZABETH (DECEASED DOG)

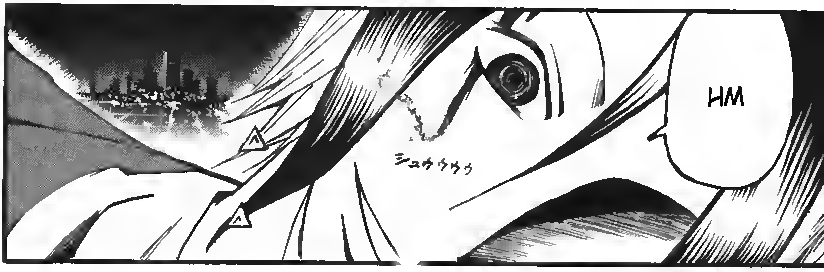
BIRTHDATE:
NOVEMBER 11
HEIGHT:
70 CM
WEIGHT:
41 KG
FUNDAMENTAL PHILOSOPHY:
TAOISM
MOTTO:
"WU-WEI ZI-RAN"
(ACTING SPONTANEOUSLY
IN A NATURAL WAY)
WHAT WAS HIDDEN EVEN UNTIL THE END:
THAT IT WAS MALE

WITHIN THE MEMORIES THAT ARE SLOWLY BEING REPLACED
MY BRAIN CELLS...
AT THAT TIME, FOR A BRIEF INSTANT, THERE'S A SHADOW THAT CUTS ACROSS THEM
REGULARLY MUTATE ON A HUGE SCALE



TEXT CLEANING ANONYMOUS TRANSLATION ANONYMOUS EDITING ANONYMOUS DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

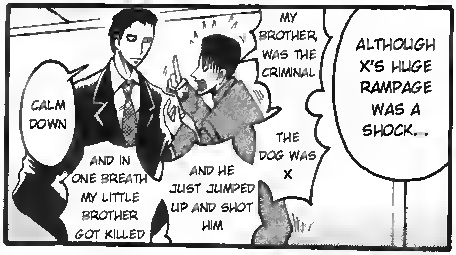
THANKS FOR COMING, NEURO
CHAPTER 58 X【CHROMOSOME】

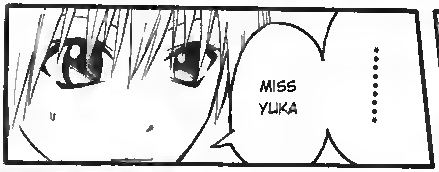

HM
シュウウウ

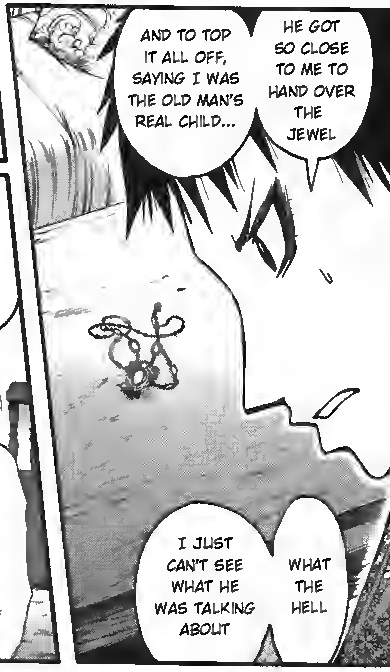
HE WASN'T AN OPPONENT THAT COULD STAND UP TO THAT KIND OF STRENGTH...
EVEN WHEN WE MOVED SO CAREFULLY
A DEFINITE FAILURE
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!!
...AND WHAT ABOUT SASAZUKA'S CONDITION
SEMPAAAAI!!
TREMBLED BRAVELY DOWNSTAIRS, I HEARD
.....
THAT WASN'T NICE, I NEVER GOT TOLD ABOUT ANY OF THIS!!
BUT EVEN IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL, I FOUGHT BRAVELY!!
I WONDER IF HE'LL BE OKAY
MR. SASA-ZUKA
AND HE'S IN NO CONDITION TO BE MOVED UNTIL A MEDIC ARRIVES
HE WAS GOTTEN PRETTY WELL IN THE RIBS
... RIGHT
.....

...IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH BEING OKAY
I JUST DON'T GET IT

.....
MISS YUKA
ARE YOU OKAY, TOO?


ALTHOUGH X'S HUGE RAMPAGE WAS A SHOCK...
MY BROTHER WAS THE CRIMINAL
THE DOG WAS X
AND HE JUST JUMPED UP AND SHOT HIM
AND IN ONE BREATH MY LITTLE BROTHER GOT KILLED
CALM DOWN


.....
MISS YUKA


HE GOT SO CLOSE TO ME TO HAND OVER THE JEWEL
AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, SAYING I WAS THE OLD MAN'S REAL CHILD...
WHAT THE HELL
I JUST CAN'T SEE WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT

I... FEEL LIKE I UNDERSTAND
THIS THING YOUR FATHER LEFT TO YOU

BECAUSE THIS JEWEL IS...
SORRY ABOUT SHOOTING YOU IN FRONT OF EVERYONE
I GUESS YOUR IDENTITY WOULD BE SUSPECT IF YOU LIVED AFTER TAKING THAT?
...HM
A THOROUGHLY ANNOYING CONVERSATION
WELL...
PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE PROPERLY LEFT THIS FOR MY SLAVE TO DEAL WITH
SLAVE?
...AAH, THAT GIRL

BUT OF COURSE
I'M NOT GETTING TIRED OF LOOKING FOR WHO YOU ARE INSIDE
ガシャ
...BUT DON'T WORRY, NEURO
I HAVEN'T GOT A TRAP TO SPRING ANYMORE
ズブ ズブ
AS I SAID BEFORE, IF YOU OBSERVE ARTWORK, YOU CAN SEE THE CREATOR'S LIFE
IF YOU LOOK DIRECTLY AT A PERSON'S CELLS
ギッ
YOU CAN KNOW HOW THEY'RE PUT TOGETHER IN MORE DETAIL
.....
THESE BLADES ARE A BIT STRONGER THAN BEFORE
BUT THEY'LL JUST HAVE TO BE GOOD ENOUGH

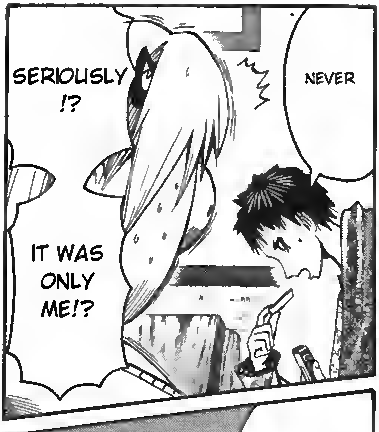
THE NATURE OF THE BODY
THE NATURE OF THE HEART
BEHAVIOR AND SO ON, ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THEIR STRONG AND WEAK POINTS
YOU CAN KNOW ALL THAT FROM THE SURFACE, BUT
YOU HAVE TO OPEN THEM UP TO SEE AND UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY
I HAVE AN EXTRAORDINARY CELLULAR IDENTITY
NEURO
IF I CUT YOU UP
AND COMPARE YOU TO THESE CELLS, PERHAPS THEN I'LL UNDERSTAND
HEH HEH HEH, REALLY
?
ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU SOME-THING
I CAN BE KILLED MORE EASILY NOW THAN BEFORE
I DO NOT KNOW IF YOU WILL FIND VALUE IN SEEING MY CELLS NOW OR NOT

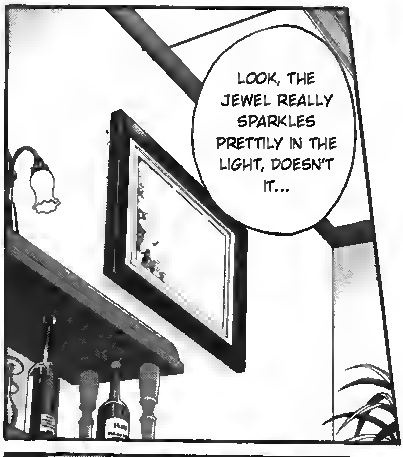
MY BODY...
IS GRADUALLY BECOMING MORE LIKE THAT OF AN ORDINARY HUMAN
IT MAY BE BECAUSE THE DAEMON WORLD'S PARTICULAR THICK MIASMA IS LACKING IN THIS WORLD
IT IS BECOMING SUCH THAT I AM LOSING MY RESPECTABILITY AS A DAEMON
WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS WORLD
BUT NOW IT IS NECESSARY TO BLOCK EVEN AN ORDINARY FIREARM...
EVEN A NUCLEAR BOMB MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO KILL ME
MY BODY IS ADJUSTING TO THE COMMON SENSE OF THIS WORLD

NO
PERHAPS NOW WILL—
EVEN THAT DEGREE OF BLADE
I WON'T LET YOU, NEURO
WHILE I'M GRADUALLY TURNING INTO A STRANGE MONSTER
FOR YOU TO TURN INTO A NORMAL HUMAN
IS SOMETHING I WON'T LET YOU DO
HEY...
LOOK, NEURO
WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME EVEN A SHORT TIME AGO
TO CHANGE INTO A DOG...
MY INSIDES ARE MUTATING WITH AMAZING SPEED

NOW...
I'M EVEN STANDING TO LOOK AT YOU FROM THE SAME VIEWPOINT
THIS THING MYSELF... WHAT IN THE WORLD AM I?
MAYBE A DAEMON LIKE YOU?
IF YOUR CELLS ARE BECOMING HUMAN...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO CONFIRM IT
AND SO I WON'T LET YOU
I'LL DO YOU THE FAVOR OF KILLING YOU NOW...
WHILE YOU'RE A DAEMON

OH MY, OH MY
ALTHOUGH I AM A PACIFIST...
FOR SOME REASON, HUMANS THAT TRY TO KILL ME DO NOT GIVE UP AFTERWARDS
VERY WELL
BUT DO NOT BE MISTAKEN
I DID NOT COME TO KILL YOU PARTICULARLY
AS PUNISHMENT FOR INTERRUPTING MY MEAL...
I CAME TO DISCIPLINE YOU

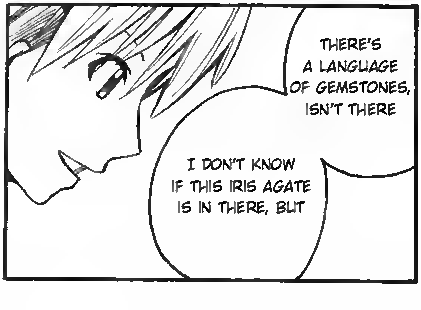

SERIOUSLY !?
NEVER
IT WAS ONLY ME!?

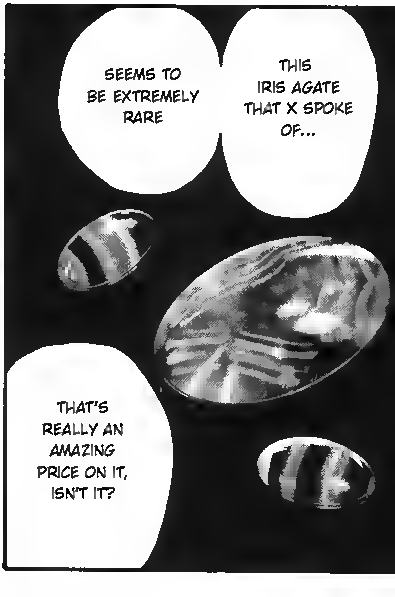

LOOK, THE JEWEL REALLY SPARKLES PRETTILY IN THE LIGHT, DOESN'T IT...

...ER, WELL, I HAVE...
AND ENDED UP KNOWING A FEW DETAILS

I THINK EVERYONE MUST HAVE AT SOME TIME
DROOLED OVER A BOOK ABOUT GEMSTONES

...SO WHAT
WHY'D HE ADDRESS IT TO ME?


THERE'S A LANGUAGE OF GEMSTONES, ISN'T THERE
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IRIS AGATE IS IN THERE, BUT


SEEMS TO BE EXTREMELY RARE
THIS IRIS AGATE THAT X SPOKE OF...
THAT'S REALLY AN AMAZING PRICE ON IT, ISN'T IT?

IN THE LANAGUAGE OF GEMSTONES THE AGATE ITSELF IS...
PARENTAL LOVE
.....!!
EVEN THOUGH HE COULDN'T PUT IT INTO WORDS
I THINK YOUR FATHER HAD MORE LOVE FOR YOU THAN HE HAD FOR ANYONE ELSE
X... SAID THAT THE EMOTION ONLY RAN BETWEEN SIMILAR CELLS, BUT
LOOKING AT THAT STATUE
SOMEHOW I FEEL IT TOO
HOW DO I PUT IT...
A WARMTH THAT ONLY A PARTICULAR SORT OF PERSON COULD FEEL

YOU TWO SURE DO LOOK ALIKE
WHEN I LOOK AT YOUR FATHER'S PICTURE...
IN THE WORKSHOP YOU HAD A REALLY WARM EXPRESSION, MISS YUKA
HUH!?
WHERE!?
THE UM...
PANDA EYES ...
THAT DON'T HIDE ANYTHING
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ONLY BLOOD THAT PASSES FROM PARENT TO CHILD
HE CLEARLY SPOKE HIS LOVE FOR YOU THROUGH HIS WORKS
SHE MARRIED HIM WITH HER EYES ON HIS FORTUNE
TO MAKE IT IRREVERSIBLE, SHE HAD A CHILD WITH HIM
WHILE SHE WAS HIS WIFE SHE MIGHT NOT HAVE LOVED HIM BUT
YOUR MOTHER SAID THAT
YOU WEREN'T HIS REAL CHILD...
I THINK SHE PROBABLY DIDN'T WANT YOU TO DIRECT YOUR LOVE TOWARDS YOUR FATHER

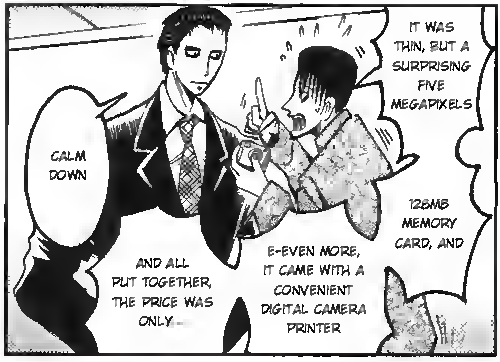
IT WAS FINE THAT YOUR FATHER COULDN'T PUT IT INTO WORDS...
I THINK SHE DENIED YOUR BLOOD RELATION TO YOUR FATHER
BECAUSE SHE LOVED YOU WHEN YOU WERE BORN, WANTING TO RANK FIRST IN YOUR LOVE,
THEY LOVED EVERY CELL IN YOUR BODY
BUT...
THAT'S FAMILY
THERE'S NO DOUBT THE TWO OF THEM HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON
IT WASN'T A GOOD WAY OF DEMONSTRATING IT, BUT
.....
I SHOWED WITH CLEAR WORDS
THAT EMOTION THAT I COULD FEEL ONLY FAINTLY...
.....AND SO

DISCIPLINE ME?
TRY IT, IF YOU CAN

NEURO
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
THE AGONY OF BEING A HUMAN WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HIS OWN FAMILY
THE MORE I SEARCH FOR MY OWN SELF, WHO I AM INSIDE
...THE GREATER MY AGONY AT BEING MADE AWARE THAT I AM A MONSTER
"A MONSTER THAT WAS BORN LIKE THAT WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND
THE MORE I SEARCH FOR PEOPLE CLOSE TO MYSELF

AND THEN
NOT ONLY MY HAPPINESS AT FINDING A MONSTER LIKE MYSELF
BUT ALSO MY DESPAIR THAT ONCE I FOUND ONE, HE WAS STARTING TO NOT BE A MONSTER
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND

...NEURO
I WISH I'D MET YOU EARLIER
BEFORE YOUR INSIDES...
GOT THIS CLOSE TO HUMAN


IT WAS THIN, BUT A SURPRISING FIVE MEGAPIXELS
128MB MEMORY CARD, AND
E-EVEN MORE, IT CAME WITH A CONVENIENT DIGITAL CAMERA PRINTER
AND ALL PUT TOGETHER, THE PRICE WAS ONLY—
CALM DOWN

CHAPTER 59 手【HAND】
...SORRY, USUI
HE WAS AN OPPONENT I COULDN'T HANDLE
IF EVEN THIRTY OFFICERS WERE COMPLETELY INEFFECTIVE
.....HMPH
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT YOU ALONE COULD HAVE DONE
AND TOMORROW FOR THAT INVESTIGATOR
SOME OTHER DAY, FOR YOU
I'LL HAVE YOU BOTH SPIT OUT THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS HOUSE
EEP!?
HE'S GOING TO QUESTION US!!
...YEAH
FOR JUST PICKING UP YOUR CHEAP LIFE
YOU'D BETTER APPRECIATE IT
.....
AS FOR NEURO BEING ALIVE...
AS USUAL, I'LL HAVE TO WEAVE TOGETHER TRUTH AND FICTION TO EXPLAIN IT
THIS IS BAD...
I'M GLAD MR. SASAZUKA IS OKAY, BUT

TEXT CLEANING: ANONYMOUS TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

HE'S NOT AS INVINCIBLE AS I'D THOUGHT
...AND NOW, NEJIRO
GOING TO MEET WITH X...
HE JUST HAS TO FINISH WITH HIM SAFELY BUT...
CHAPTER 59 手【HAND+】

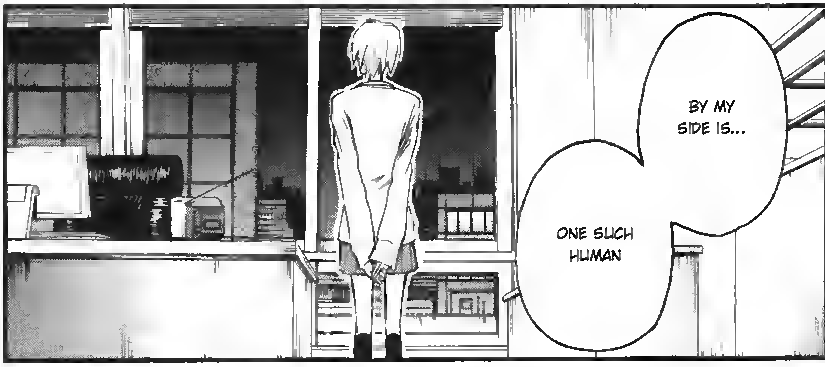
THERE'S NO REAL DIFFERENCE IN ENDURANCE OR SPEED COMPARED TO A NORMAL HUMAN
EVEN THIS HAND!
I COULD HAVE MADE IT A LITTLE WHILE AGO
パシ
EVEN IF YOU ARE HALF HUMAN...
THE OTHER HALF HAS TO STILL BE MONSTER
I'M DISAPPOINTED, NEURO
ポイ
.. AND
WHAT WILL YOU SHOW ME NEXT?
EVEN THE DREGS WILL BE FINE
AS A MONSTER, SHOW ME YOUR INSIDES

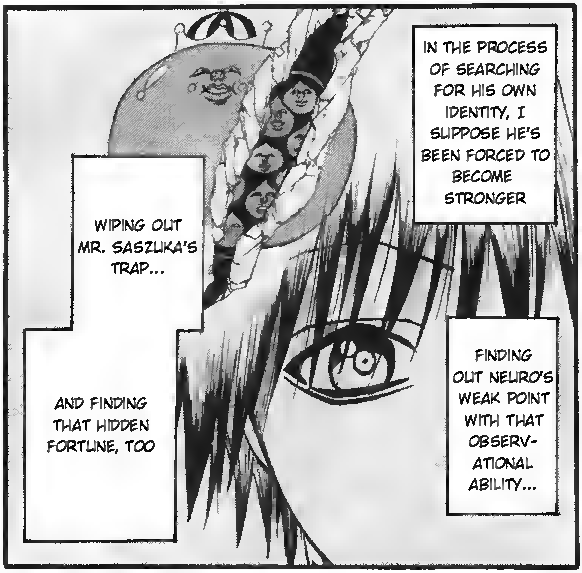
THOUGH I MAY BE ROTTING AWAY, I AM STILL WITHIN THE REALM OF THE DAEMONIC
DO NOT PUSH YOUR LUCK
メキ…
メキ メキ…
YOU MAY IMITATE ME ALL YOU WISH
UH…
YOU CANNOT MATCH EVEN A SINGLE HAND
FROM A REAL DAEMON
メキ
メキ
メキ
メキ
メキ

ブチ
ブチ
ブチ
ブチ

ヤアッ
BUT YOU'RE GETTING CLOSER TO HUMAN...
B...
YOU SAID SO...!!
FRANKLY, I DO NOT CARE IF I MYSELF AM MONSTER OR A HUMAN
IT WAS EXTRA TO BE SURE
NOT TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM A GUN ..
YOU... DIDN'T NEED ANY OF IT
OR FOR YOUR FRIENDS TO... BUY YOU SOME TIME...
ヒラリ
ﾀｯ
BUT
I HAVE NO REASON TO DIE
ｽｳ

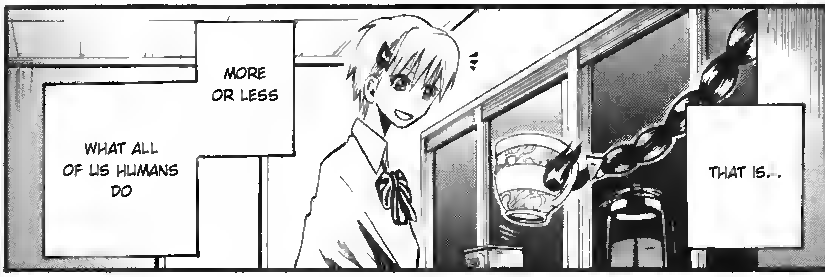
UNTIL I HAVE SATISFIED MY HUNGRY BRAIN
WITH THE "PUZZLES" SCATTERED ACROSS THIS WORLD
YOU ARE DECIDEDLY HUMAN
YOUR METHOD FOR KILLING ME WAS INGENIOUS
IT WAS A PERFORMANCE BEYOND MY EXPECTATIONS
NO "PUZZLE" TO IT, BUT...
...YOU'RE CLEVER
BUT I WON'T KNOW IF I'M HUMAN OR A MONSTER UNLESS I KILL YOU...
IS THE PROOF THAT YOUR TRUE FORM IS HUMAN
THAT TENDENCY TOWARDS IMPROVEMENT...


BY MY SIDE IS...
ONE SUCH HUMAN


IN THE PROCESS OF SEARCHING FOR HIS OWN IDENTITY, I SUPPOSE HE'S BEEN FORCED TO BECOME STRONGER
WIPING OUT MR. SASZUKA'S TRAP...
AND FINDING THAT HIDDEN FORTUNE, TOO
FINDING OUT NEURO'S WEAK POINT WITH THAT OBSERV-ATIONAL ABILITY...

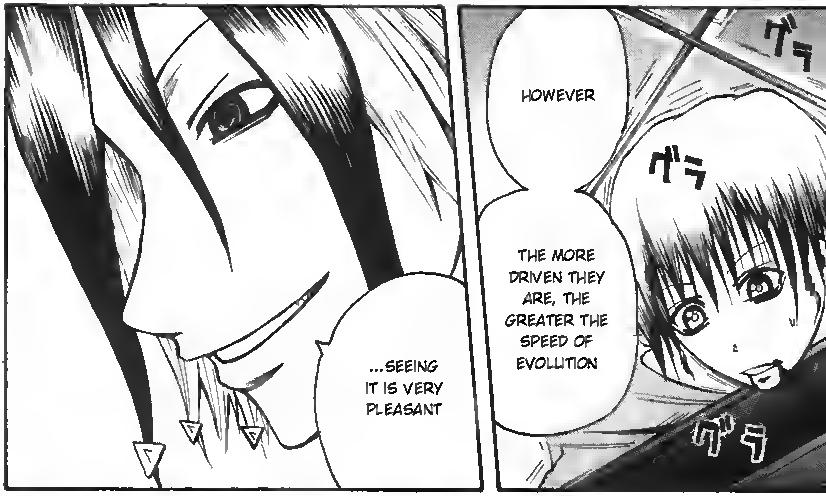
TODAY ...
UP AGAINST X, THE THING I FEARED THE MOST...
WAS HIS OBSERVATIONAL ABILITY RATHER THAN HIS PHYSICAL FORM

BUT

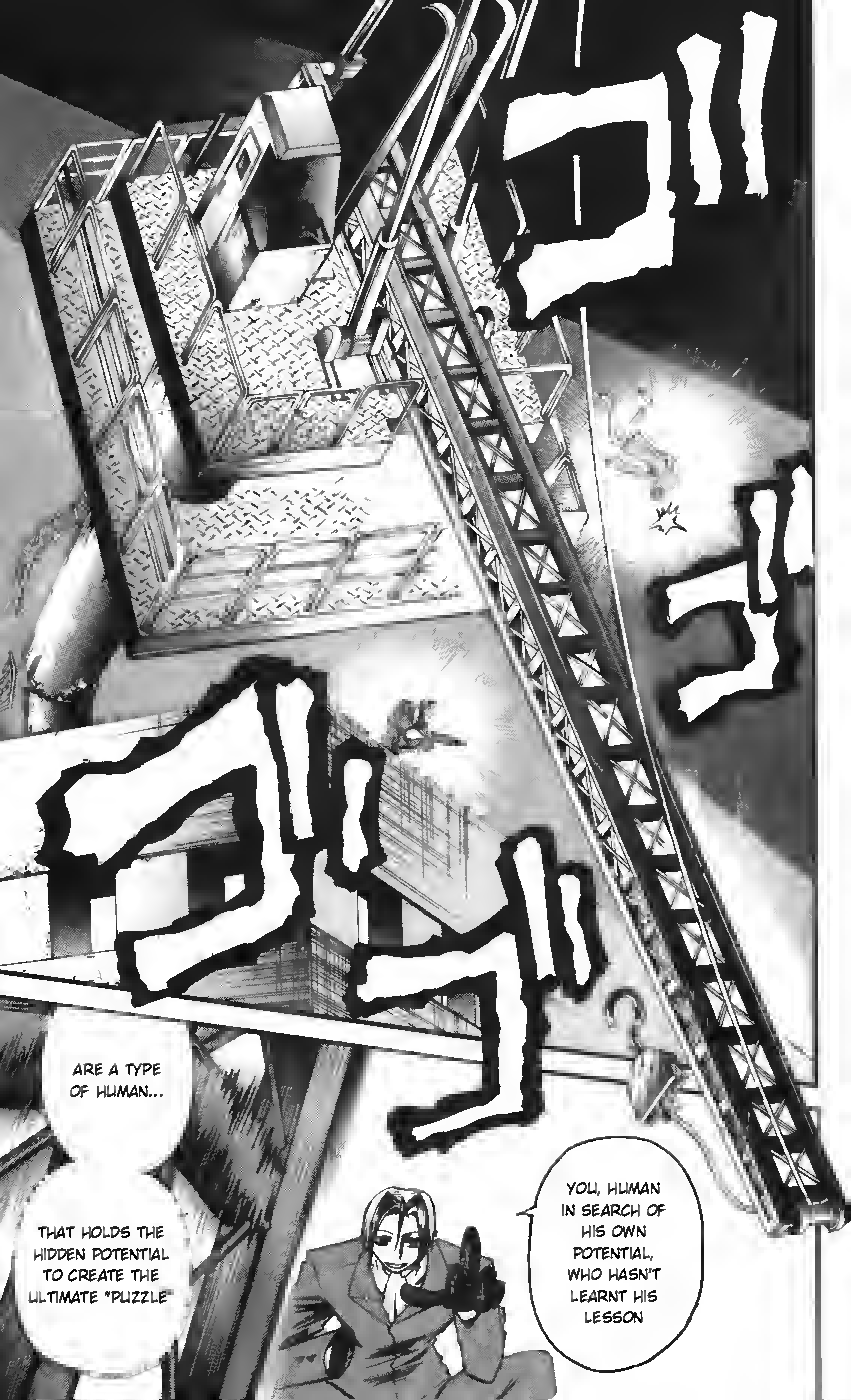

MORE OR LESS
WHAT ALL OF US HUMANS DO
THAT IS...

IN SHORT, TO CONFIRM WHO THEY ARE INSIDE
EVERYONE
AS A WAY TO FIND OUT YOUR OWN RELATIVE STATUS AND ABILITIES...
LOOKS AT OTHER PEOPLE AND COMPARES THEM TO THEMSELF
I...
YOUR FAMILY
AND THEN
THE OTHER PEOPLE CLOSEST TO YOU ARE...
DIDN'T HAVE ANY MENTAL IMAGE OF HIM OTHER THAN THE TERRIBLE CRIMINAL, KAITOU "X"...
AND YET I WANTED TO KNOW A LITTLE MORE OF HIS STORY
WHEN HE HANDED YUKA THE PROOF OF HER FATHER'S LOVE
X, WHO'S FORGOTTEN EVEN HIS OWN FAMILY,
WHAT WAS HE THINKING, I WONDER

BOTH OF YOU ARE SERIOUS ABOUT KNOWING YOUR OWN POTENTIAL
THAT VITAL STRENGTH IS SOMETHING DAEMONS CANNOT HAVE
BECAUSE HUMANS ARE ALIVE FOR ONLY A SHORT TIME
THEY ARE DESPERATE TO SEARCH FOR THEIR POTENTIAL TO EVOLVE
ギコギコ


HOWEVER
THE MORE DRIVEN THEY ARE, THE GREATER THE SPEED OF EVOLUTION
...SEEING IT IS VERY PLEASANT
グラ

I WILL PUNISH YOU CRUELLY, BUT...
...OF COURSE, DISCIPLINE IS DISCIPLINE
ギリ


YOU, HUMAN IN SEARCH OF HIS OWN POTENTIAL, WHO HASN'T LEARNT HIS LESSON
ARE A TYPE OF HUMAN...
THAT HOLDS THE HIDDEN POTENTIAL TO CREATE THE ULTIMATE "PUZZLE"

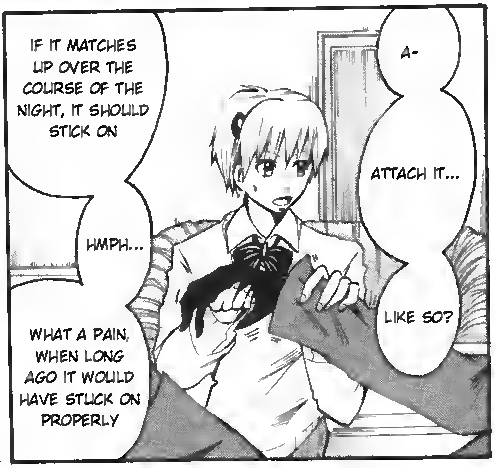
AND WHEN THAT POTENTIAL APPEARS...
I WILL EAT IT
.....!!

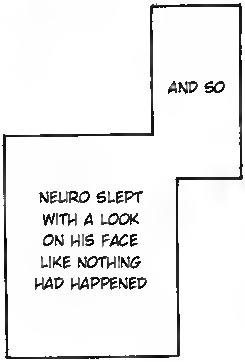
ガチャ
!
AND I'LL HAVE TO GO VISIT MR SASAZUKA WHEN HE COMES TO
AND TO COME SEE MISS YUKA'S SITUATION
...BUT
THIS TIME I'VE GOT A LOT TO WORRY ABOUT...
NEURO, OF COURSE

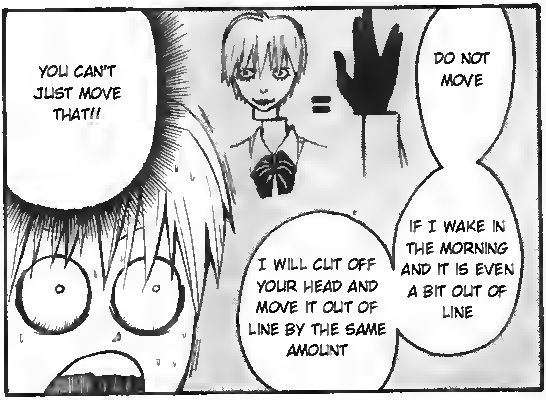
つるん
...WHAT
YOU DON'T HAVE A SCRATCH ON YOU
EVEN YOUR CLOTHES ARE FIXED
NEURO!!
ARE YOU OKAY!?
IS X...
ボス
...YOU MANAGED SOMEHOW
THAT'S ONE WORRY GONE...
TESTING HIS PERFORMANCE WAS QUITE SOMETHING
THAT IS INCORRECT
ポイ
ギリギリギ
NO MATTER WHAT I DO, IT WILL NOT REMAIN STUCK ON
SO I HAD TO BRING IT HOME
YOUR HAND !?

YAKO
ATTACH IT
I AM TIRED, SO I SHALL SLEEP

LONG AGO...
SO NEIRO REALLY IS, BIT BY BIT...

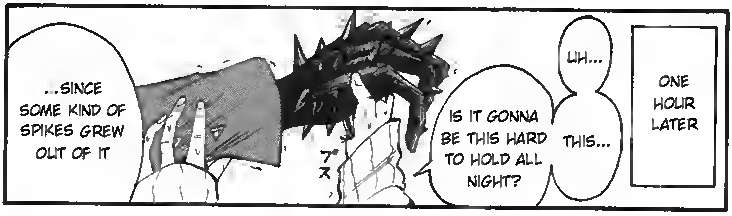

IF IT MATCHES UP OVER THE COURSE OF THE NIGHT, IT SHOULD STICK ON
HMPH...
WHAT A PAIN, WHEN LONG AGO IT WOULD HAVE STUCK ON PROPERLY
A-
ATTACH IT...
LIKE SO?


AND SO
NEIRO SLEPT WITH A LOOK ON HIS FACE LIKE NOTHING HAD HAPPENED


YOU CAN'T JUST MOVE THAT!!
DO NOT MOVE
I WILL CUT OFF YOUR HEAD AND MOVE IT OUT OF LINE BY THE SAME AMOUNT
IF I WAKE IN THE MORNING AND IT IS EVEN A BIT OUT OF LINE

IT WAS A MYSTERIOUS NIGHT
EVEN THOUGH IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A FIGHT BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLE I COULDN'T REACH...
NEURO, WHO WAS NOW INJURED, AND X, WHO FELT THE TAINT OF HUMANITY
I FELT CLOSER TO THESE TWO THAN I HAD BEFORE THIS CASE

THAT RELIEF AND...
VARIOUS UNCERTAINTIES WERE MIXED...
AS I TRIED TO CLOSE THE CURTAIN ON THIS CASE FOR A WHILE


ONE HOUR LATER
UH... THIS...
IS IT GONNA BE THIS HARD TO HOLD ALL NIGHT?
...SINCE SOME KIND OF SPIKES GREW OUT OF IT

AND SINCE MY BONES ARE SMASHED INTO BITS
I CAN FIX IT BUT HOW MUCH IS IT GONNA TAKE
IT WAS PRETTY BAD
HE CRUSHED MOST OF THE ORGANS IN MY BODY IN ONE HIT
IN TIME, I'LL BE RESTORED
IT'S A PRESENT HE TOOK THE TROUBLE TO GET FOR ME
AND NEXT TIME I'LL KILL HIM FOR SURE
!
バキ
...NAH, I'M FINE
!
ポキ
ペキッ
OWW
IF YOU WOULD LIKE, I CAN PERFORM SURGERY
.....
?
WHAT
.....
UNDER-STOOD
ギュ

...NO
I THINK IT RATHER HAS
UWAAAH, YOU REPLIED SO FAST
AND IT HASN'T REALLY DECREASED

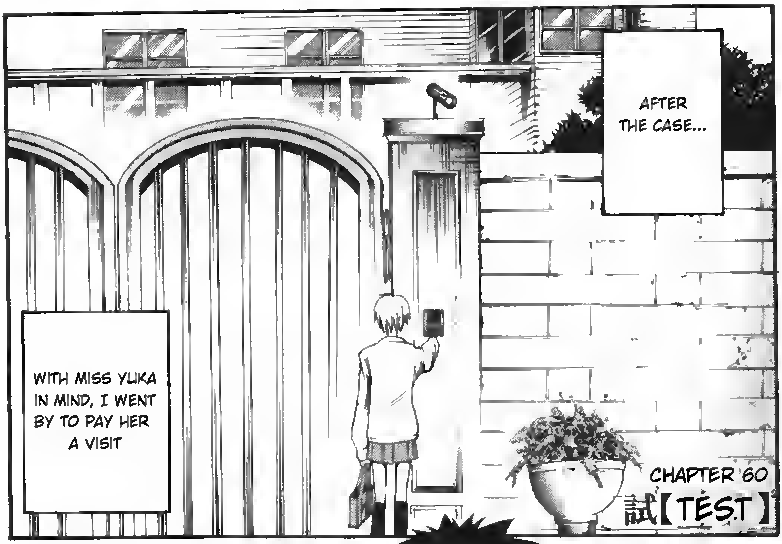
I REFUSE
AI
CAN I GRIND YOU UP?

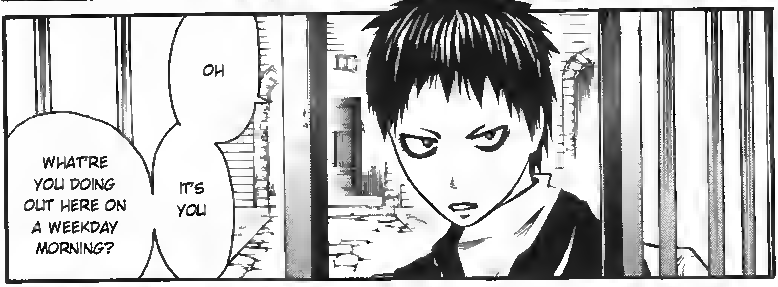
YOU FORGET
MAYBE IF I SAW THE INSIDES OF A HUMAN LIKE YOU...
WHY WON'T YOU SHOW ME?

WANT TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE INSIDE
I TOO...

THAT IS MY ONLY WISH
...AND SO I AM BEING ALLOWED TO ASSIST YOU
.....
EVEN TAKING ME TO PIECES OR GRINDING ME UP
AFTER-WARDS, YOU MAY DO AS YOU WILL
AS LONG AS YOU KNOW THAT
...JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WANT THEN
...HMPH

HE DIDN'T TAKE CARE OF THE DISPOSAL

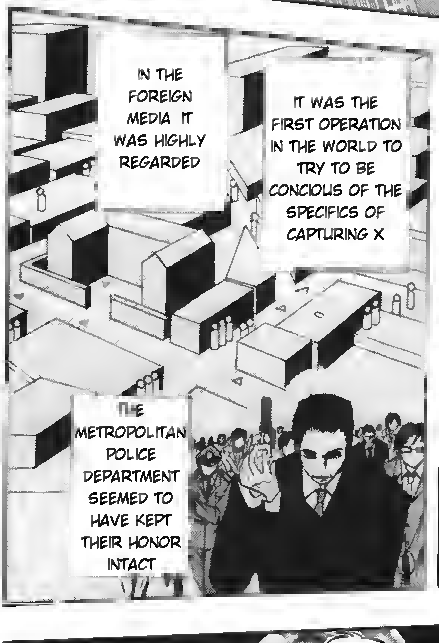


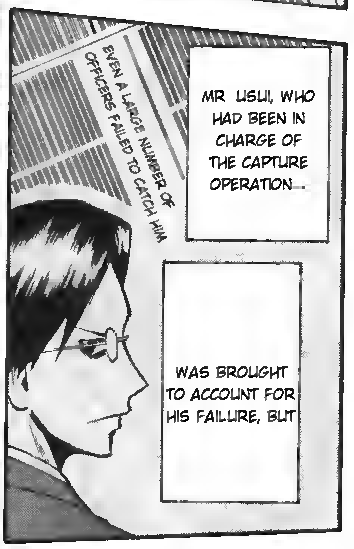


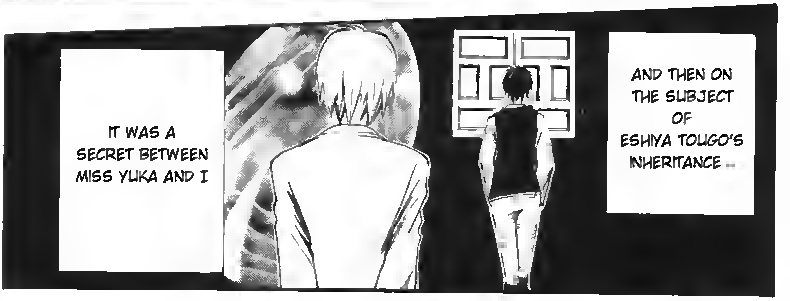
NO MATTER WHAT, I WANT TO HAVE THE SCHOOL LUNCH TODAY
SO I HAVE TO KILL TIME SOMEHOW UNTIL THEN...
SO I THOUGHT I'D BE GOOD TO COME VISIT YOU
THAT'S NOT A PLEASANT WAY TO PAY SOMEONE A VISIT!!

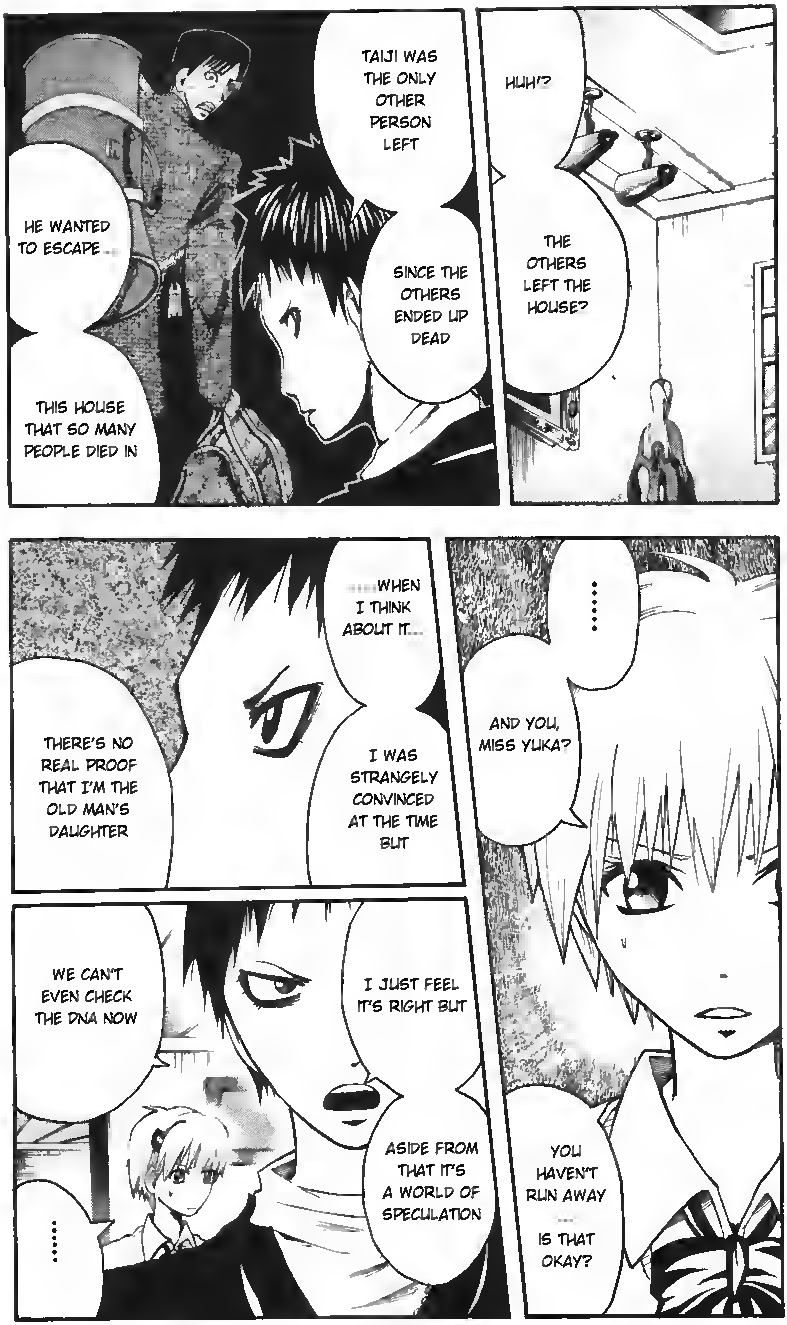
TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS EDITING: ANONYMOUS CLEANING: ANONYMOUS
DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST. ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!

KAI TOU X APPEARS!!
2 PEOPLE, 1 ANIMAL KILLED
聞日
X'S CASE...
WAS RECIEVED BY THE WORLD RELATIVELY AS PER USUAL
RECENTLY FRO
CRANE FELL
RELATED TO


IN THE FOREIGN MEDIA IT WAS HIGHLY REGARDED
IT WAS THE FIRST OPERATION IN THE WORLD TO TRY TO BE CONCIOUS OF THE SPECIFICS OF CAPTURING X
THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT SEEMED TO HAVE KEPT THEIR HONOR INTACT

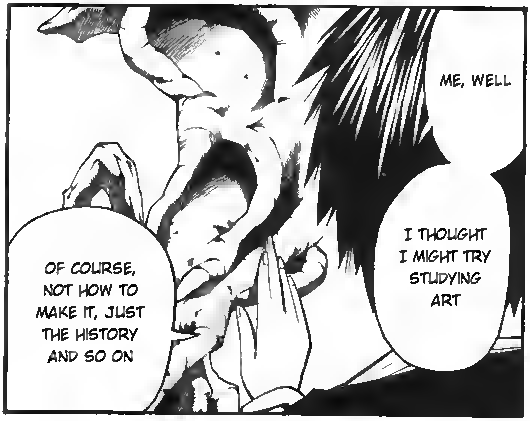

EVEN A LARGE NUMBER OF OFFICERS FAILED TO CATCH HIM
MR USUI, WHO HAD BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE CAPTURE OPERATION...
WAS BROUGHT TO ACCOUNT FOR HIS FAILURE, BUT


IT WAS A SECRET BETWEEN MISS YUKA AND I
AND THEN ON THE SUBJECT OF ESHIYA TOUGO'S INHERITANCE...


TAIJI WAS THE ONLY OTHER PERSON LEFT
SINCE THE OTHERS ENDED UP DEAD
HE WANTED TO ESCAPE...
THIS HOUSE THAT SO MANY PEOPLE DIED IN
HUH!?
THE OTHERS LEFT THE HOUSE?
.....WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT....
I WAS STRANGELY CONVINCED AT THE TIME BUT
THERE'S NO REAL PROOF THAT I'M THE OLD MAN'S DAUGHTER
.....
AND YOU, MISS YUKA?
I JUST FEEL IT'S RIGHT BUT
ASIDE FROM THAT IT'S A WORLD OF SPECULATION
WE CAN'T EVEN CHECK THE DNA NOW
.....
YOU HAVEN'T RUN AWAY ... IS THAT OKAY?

THIS ROOM THAT THE OLD MAN MADE FOR ME
THIS HOUSE THAT MY MOTHER RAISED ME IN
THIS IS THE PLACE I'M THE MOST COMFORTABLE
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHOSE BLOOD FLOWS THROUGH MY VEINS...

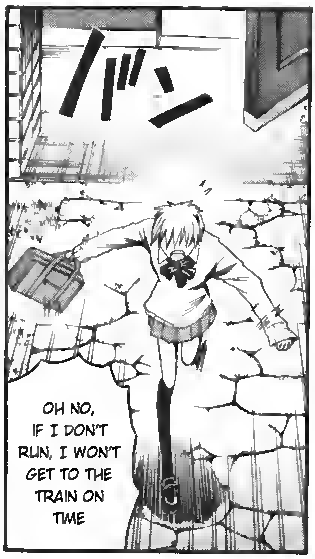
BUT WELL, INVESTIGATOR
JUST THAT FEELING IS ENOUGH
THERE'S NO MISTAKE THAT I'M CONNECTED TO HIM


ME, WELL
I THOUGHT I MIGHT TRY STUDYING ART
OF COURSE, NOT HOW TO MAKE IT, JUST THE HISTORY AND SO ON

.....
I SEE...

YEAH
THAT SOUNDS GREAT
I THINK THAT SORT OF THING IS PRETTY AMAZING, TOO!
SUCH A POWER THAT IT CONNECTS TWO PEOPLE BEYOND DEATH
I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THEIR HISTORY
THESE ARE THE THINGS THE OLD MAN LEFT FOR ME
AND THEN, I THINK I'LL GET TO LIKE THIS PLACE EVEN MORE
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE DOING WELL, MISS YUKA!!
SEE YOU LATER!!
WHAT THE HELL?
OW
IF YOU DO STUDY IT, MAYBE YOU COULD TEACH ME...
GWAH, IT'S TIME!!
WAIT A...
.....
AND TALKING ABOUT MY LIFE IS LESS IMPORTANT?
IT'S MY NUMBER-ONE PRIORITY, I HAVE TO GET THERE!!
I HAVE TO GO, THE CAFETERIA JUST OPENED!!

OH GEEZ
WHY DID I END UP COMING HERE ANYWAY
MISS YUKA IS ALREADY FINDING HER OWN WAY...
タッ
タッ


ドン
OH NO, IF I DON'T RUN, I WON'T GET TO THE TRAIN ON TIME

THAT I WAS ABLE TO CALM DOWN
...BUT
IT WAS BECAUSE OF HER STRANGELY CONVINCING WORDS

...SHE'S REALLY WEIRD...
IT WAS CLEAR SHE ONLY CAME BY TO KILL SOME TIME

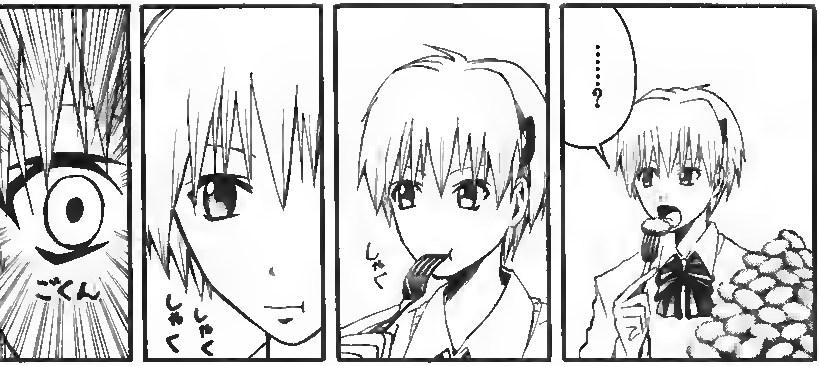
I FEEL...
I PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STAY IN THIS HOUSE EITHER
IF SHE HADN'T COME AND MADE THIS HOUSE THE SCENE OF THE INCIDENT
IF SOMEONE ELSE HAD SOLVED THE CASE

I GUESS THAT'S...
...SHE'S AMAZING
THE RUMOR OF THE HIGHSCHOOL GIRL INVESTIGATOR
...RIGHT
WHETHER I CAN BE STRONG OR NOT, THE WORLD KEEPS TURNING
EVEN AFTER X'S CASE, THIS TIME...
EVERYBODY IS ALREADY CAUGHT UP IN THE NEXT EVERYDAY EVENT
AFTER THIS WHEN I GO TO SCHOOL
I'LL PROBABLY HAVE NEW PROBLEMS TO FACE...
...AND THEN

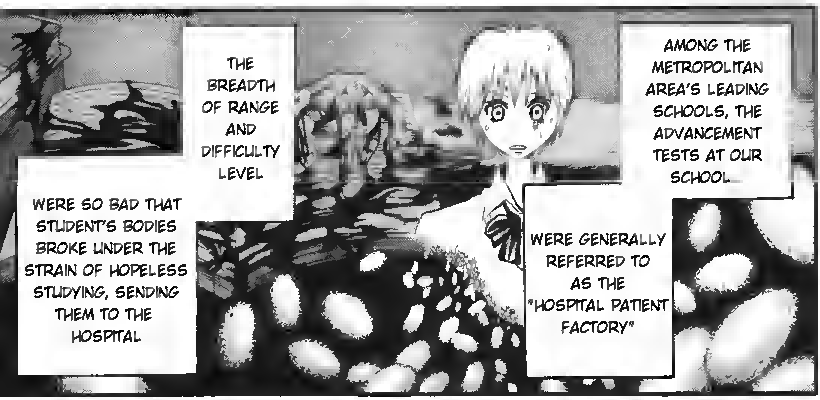
CHAPTER 60 試【TEST】

THIS BEAUTIFUL BULLET-SHAPE
I DON'T KNOW WHO ORDERED IT...
SINCE THE OYSTERS WERE REALLY CHEAP
I'M GLAD YOU MADE IT, YAKO
I ORDERED A HUGE AMOUNT JUST FOR YOU
SCHOOL COOK
HIRANO SORA
YOU'RE SUCH A VICIOUS KILLER!!
THANK YOU, MA'AM!!
IF I WAS JUST SHOT WITH A BULLET OF FRIED OYSTER, I COULD DIE HAPPY!!
OHHH~~~~~~ SUCH VIOLENTLY FRIED OYSTERS!!
.....
じゃく
じゃく
じゃく
.....
IF I'D GOT MY HANDS ON THEM, THEY'D BE GONE BEFORE BREAKFAST!!
RIGHT, KANAE!!

YOU'RE REALLY TAKING IT EASY, KATSURAGI
OH YEAH, OF COURSE !!
I CAME HERE FOR THIS LEVEL OF SCHOOL LUNCH, THEIR WAY OF FRYING OYSTERS IS SO...
YOU KNOW HOW HIGH A LEVEL OUR SCHOOL IS, RIGHT?
...HM?
WHAT'S WRONG, KANAE
SSSH
BE QUIET AND EAT YOUR FRIED OYSTERS
HAVING YOUR TEXTBOOK HERE WITH YOU LIKE THAT ISN'T VERY STYLISH...
...HM?
YOU, WHO JUST SLIDES BY, GETTING BAD MARKS
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE THE TIME TO DREAM ABOUT FRIED OYSTERS
...YOU REALLY ARE HAPPY, AREN'T YOU YAKO
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T LIKE STUDYING WHILE I SHOULD BE EATING, AND EVEN THOUGH I WAS AT THE TOP OF MY LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOL...


ごくん
しゃく
しゃく
……？

IT TOOK ONE FRIED OYSTER BEFORE YOU NOTICED, HUH...
OH NO!!
IT'S TEST TIME AFTER NEXT WEEK!!

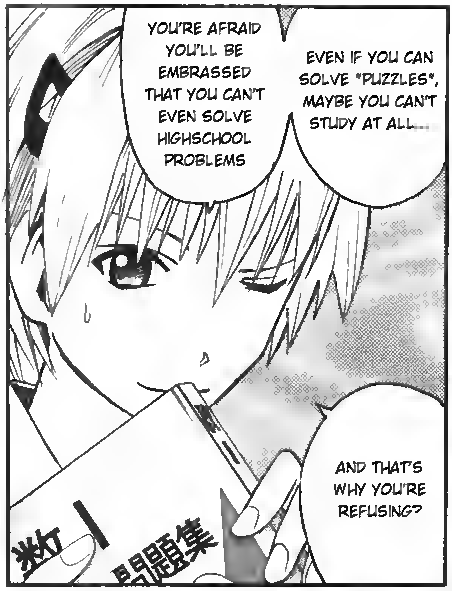

THE BREADTH OF RANGE AND DIFFICULTY LEVEL
WERE SO BAD THAT STUDENT'S BODIES BROKE UNDER THE STRAIN OF HOPELESS STUDYING, SENDING THEM TO THE HOSPITAL
AMONG THE METROPOLITAN AREA'S LEADING SCHOOLS, THE ADVANCEMENT TESTS AT OUR SCHOOL...
WERE GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS THE "HOSPITAL PATIENT FACTORY"

PEOPLE SAY IT DESTROYS THE BODY AND MIND...
THAT THERE'S EVEN PEOPLE STILL LIVING IN A HOSPITAL SOMEWHERE IN THAT CONDITION
SO, YAKO
YOU, WHO CAME TO THIS SCHOOL JUST FOR THE SCHOOL LUNCHES...
...THIS IS BAD!!
HERE RECENTLY, I'VE BEEN
DISTRACTED FROM SCHOOL BY A STRING OF CASES!!
NORMALLY, YOU CAN EXPECT TO STUDY FOR TWO SOLID WEEKS BEFORE THE TESTS BEGIN!!
EVEN IF YOU STUDIED NORMALLY FOR THE REMAINING WEEK, STARTING NOW...
もっとがんばりましょう
YOU'D GET TERRIBLE RESULTS!!
SORRY, KANAE!!
PLEASE HELP ME STUDY!!

ピン
I'LL GIVE YOU THREE FRIED OYSTERS!!
IF YOU COULD JUST GO OVER THE MAIN POINTS FOR ME!!
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR ME TO DO IT ALONE!!
SORRY, YAKO
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU
WE'RE FRIENDS RIGHT?
THAT'S A COLD RESPONSE
U...MM...
LOOK
EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN HANDS FULL
さっ
さっ
さっ
EVERYBODY WISHES THEY COULD GIVE SOME HELP BUT...
THE TESTS THIS TIME ARE GONNA COVER AN ESPECIALLY WIDE RANGE
SHE CAN'T HELP IT, YAKO

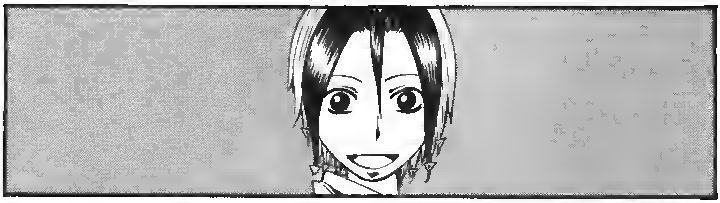
EVEN IF IT MAKES IT THAT YOU HAVE TO REPEAT A YEAR
YOU CAN COME FOR A LOT OF LUNCHES IN THAT TIME
IT'S OKAY FOR YOU, YAKO
YOU ALWAYS GET BAD MARKS
FOR SURE
THAT'S HOW SHE'S HELD HER SPOT AS A STAR "HIGHSCHOOL GIRL INVESTGATOR"
...MORE LIKE REPEAT-A-YEAR HIGHSCHOOL GIRL INVESTIGATOR
AAAAAAAAHA HA HA HA HA
AH
WAIT A MINUTE, YAKO!!
いやぁぁぁ
ダッシュ

YOU WISH TO BORROW MY BRAINS TO STUDY FOR YOUR EXAMS... YES
...NO DOUBT
...BUT I CANNOT ADVISE YOU
I AM OF THE SAME OPINION AS YOUR CLASSMATES
.....A CLICHED DEVELOPMENT
YES, YES IT'S A CLICHE!!
ALL STUDENTS SUFFER FROM THIS CLICHE!!
AT THE BEGINNING BUT...
WHAT DO I KNOW OF THE DELICATE CYCLE OF THIS SORT OF HUMAN
IT SHOULD BE NO HINDERANCE TO YOUR INVESTIGATIVE WORK
YOU MAY REPEAT A YEAR OR SOMESUCH BUT...


YOU'RE AFRAID YOU'LL BE EMBRASSED THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN SOLVE HIGHSCHOOL PROBLEMS
EVEN IF YOU CAN SOLVE "PUZZLES", MAYBE YOU CAN'T STUDY AT ALL...
AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE REFUSING?
数I
問題集

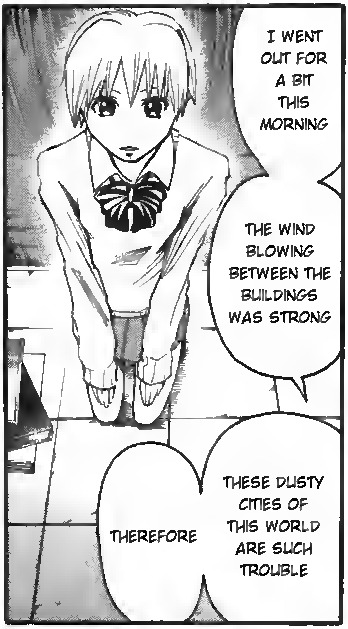
.....

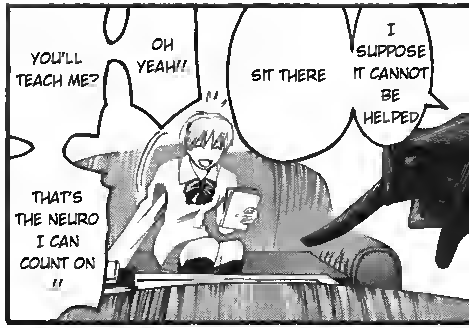
?
OF WHAT
SAYING THAT...
YOU'RE SCA~ARED, AREN'T YOU?

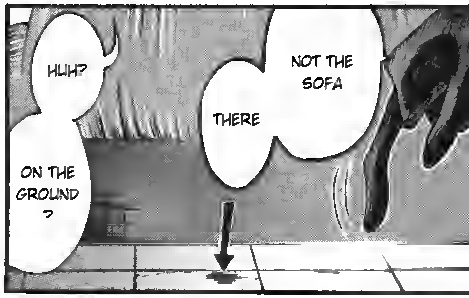


サラサラ
サラ
数I

I ABSORB ALL KNOWLEDGE THAT MAY PROVE USEFUL IN SOLVING A "PUZZLE"
WOW, THEY'RE ALL RIGHT!!
AS EXPECTED
I AM THE MAN WHO HAS FINISHED SOLVING THE "PUZZLES" OF THE DAEMON WORLD
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM
GENERAL SCHOOL PROBLEMS OF THIS WORLD
ESPECIALLY OF THIS LEVEL
I HAVE UNDERSTOOD HOW TO DO WITHIN TWELVE HOURS OF ARRIVING IN THIS WORLD
HE REALLY IS PRETTY AMAZING...
TO TAKE THE TROUBLE TO DO SO...
YOU HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO ME HOW TO FIGURE IT OUT!!
..BUT THEN!!
IF THE QUESTIONS ARE NO PROBLEM, IT SHOULD BE EASY FOR YOU TO HELP ME STUDY FOR THE TESTS!!
はっ


I WENT OUT FOR A BIT THIS MORNING
THE WIND BLOWING BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS WAS STRONG
THESE DUSTY CITIES OF THIS WORLD ARE SUCH TROUBLE
THEREFORE


I SUPPOSE IT CANNOT BE HELPED
SIT THERE
OH YEAH!!
YOU'LL TEACH ME?
THAT'S THE NEURO I CAN COUNT ON !!


NOT THE SOFA
THERE
HUH?
ON THE GROUND ?

LICK IT

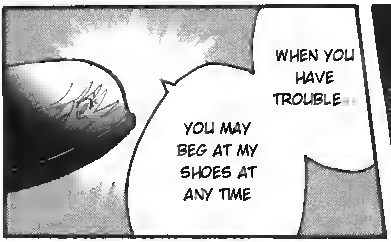
LICK MY SAND-COVERED SHOES CLEEEEEEEEEAAAN...
AND BEG "PLEASE TEACH THIS WORTHLESS SLAVE HOW TO STUDY, MASTER"
IF YOU DO SO...
YOU WILL GET SPLENDID GRADES
...I FORGOT WHEN I ASK HIM FOR THINGS...
IT SIMPLY ENDS UP LIKE THIS!!
THINK, YAKO!!
...IF I CAN'T...
I'LL END UP TRADING UP MY OWN HUMILIATION FOR IT!!
OF A WAY TO GET THROUGH THESE TESTS WITHOUT RELYING ON THIS SADISTIC DEMON

IT'S BETTER TO BE A BIG FISH IN A LITTLE POND THAN A LITTLE FISH IN A BIG POND

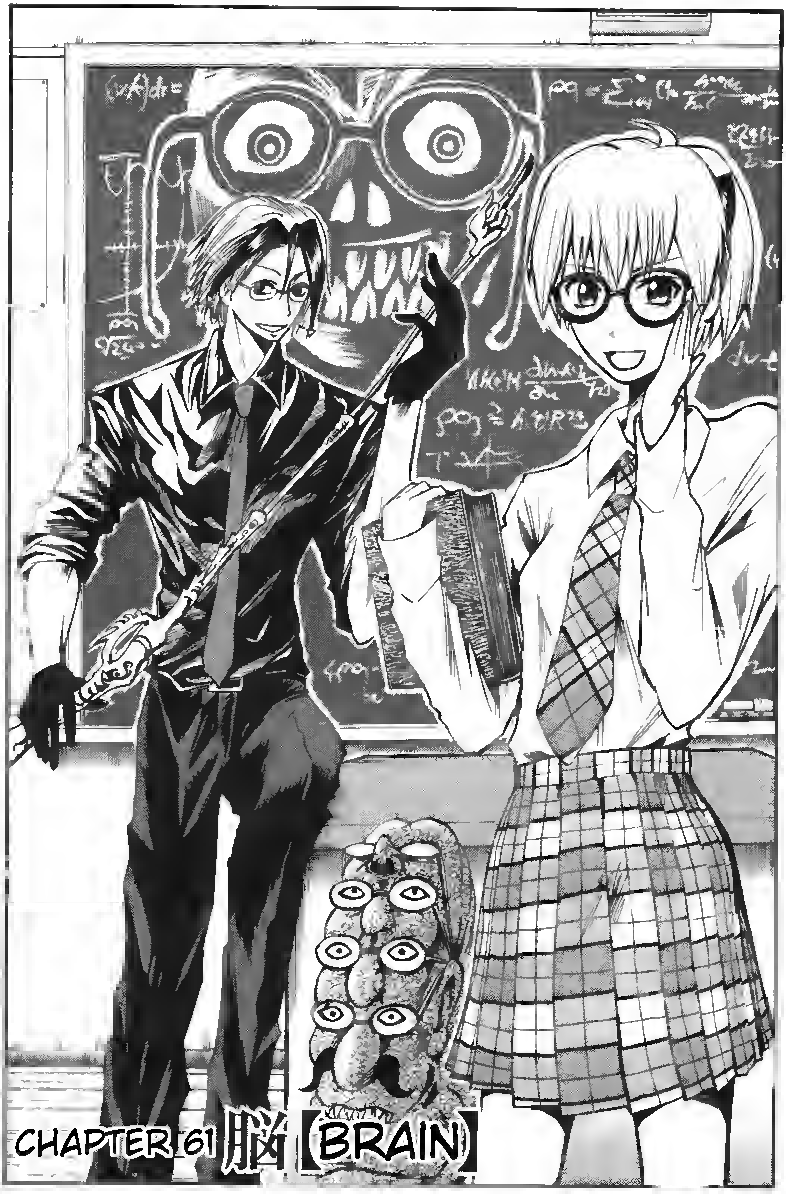
PLAN TO GET AHEAD IN SCHOOL!"

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WANT HIM TO TEACH ME HOW TO STUDY IN EXCHANGE
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY I CAN LICK HIS SHOES!!
IT'D BE THE END OF ME AS A PERSON!!

THE ACT OF LICKING SOMEONE'S SHOES...
HAS BEEN, SINCE ANCIENT TIMES (?) THE GREATEST SYMBOL OF SUBMISSION
THE INSTANT YOU LICK THEM, YOUR DIGNITY AS A HUMAN BEING CRUMBLES AWAY
CHAPTER 61 脳 [BRAIN]



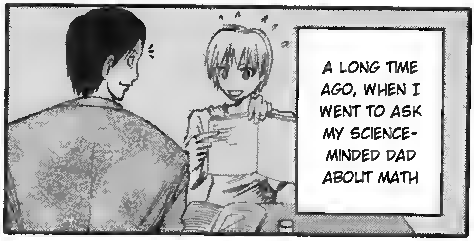
TRANSLATION: ANONYMOUS. EDITING: ANONYMOUS. CLEANING: ANONYMOUS
DISTRIBUTE FREELY UNTIL LICENSED TRANSLATIONS EXIST. ANONYMOUS DOES NOT FORGIVE!


CHAPTER 61 脳 BRAIN

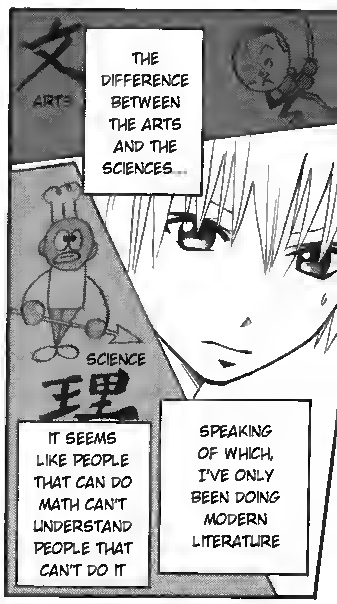
ス……
PEOPLE THAT ARE SMART, AND NEARBY...
PEOPLE THAT ARE SMART...
BUT... MMM...
IF NEURO'S NO GOOD, WHO WILL I GET TO TEACH ME...
DHA
ピ
I'VE GOT IT!!
YOU'RE HERE, AKANE!!
SINCE YOU CAN DO MATH AND ENGLISH!!
YOU'RE THE GIRL THAT'S THE BRAINS OF THIS OFFICE!!
THANKS, AKANE...
FOR BEING CONCERNED ENOUGH ABOUT MY HEAD TO PUT A FISH EYEBALL IN MY TEA...
...BUT IT'S PRETTY TASTY

コクン
OH, PLEASE!!
I'LL TAKE YOU TO A WOMEN'S SPECIALTY SPA IN THANKS!!
I'M ESPECIALLY BAD AT ENGLISH AND MATH!!
I'M SAVED!!
ムギュ
IF YOU COULD TEACH ME, IT WOULD MAKE ME FEEL SO MUCH BETTER!!
LOOK~, SEE, NEURO~
I CAN STUDY WITHOUT YOUR HELP~~
……
サラサラ
サラサラ
サラ
カカュサラサラ
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS AT ALL...
THE FORMULA JUST LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF MAGIC SPELL TO ME...?
UH-OOHHH~...

はぁ…
AKANE, YOU SAID...
UH?
AFTER THIS FORMULA, SUBSTITUTE IT IN...
...ER, AND THEN...
?
HM?
SOMEHOW... I GET THE FEELING YOU'RE LOOKING DOWN ON ME A BIT, AKANE?
UH...
LIKE YOU'RE THINKING "WHY CAN'T SHE GET IT?"
...
ぶん
ぶん
WHEN THE DIFFERENCE IN INTELLECT IS TOO GREAT...
FUHAHA
I UNDERSTAND, AKANE
IT IS ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT TO TEACH
PERHAPS THE SHAPE OF YOUR BRAIN DIFFERS FROM THAT OF AKANE'S
AND, YAKO

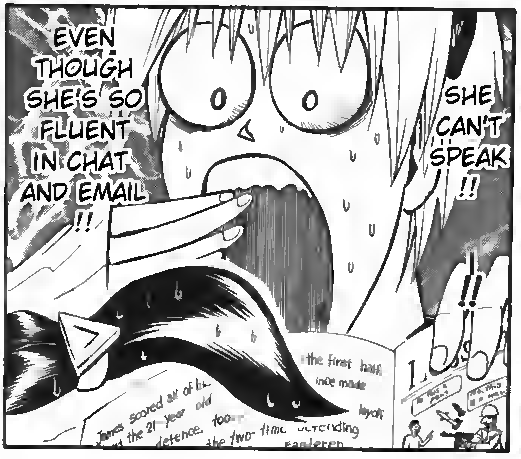

A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN I WENT TO ASK MY SCIENCE-MINDED DAD ABOUT MATH

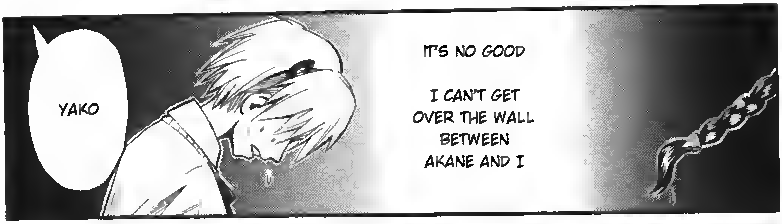
...WOW...
REALLY?
...THE LOOK HE GAVE ME WAS LIKE, IS THIS REALLY MY DAUGHTER


THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ARTS AND THE SCIENCES...
ARTS
文
SCIENCE
理
IT SEEMS LIKE PEOPLE THAT CAN DO MATH CAN'T UNDERSTAND PEOPLE THAT CAN'T DO IT
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'VE ONLY BEEN DOING MODERN LITERATURE

THIS SECTION IS CHOOSE THE RIGHT ONE...
IF YOU COULD JUST TELL ME HOW TO READ IT...

W
WELL, ER, THEN, AKANE!!
YOU'RE GOOD AT ENGLISH TOO, RIGHT!!
コクン
English
I'D LIKE TO GET IN SOME PRACTICE AND GET USED TO IT BEFORE THE TEST
I AM AT GRAMMAR, BUT MY LISTENING IS REALLY BAD!!


EVEN THOUGH SHE'S SO FLUENT IN CHAT AND EMAIL !!
SHE CAN'T SPEAK !!
!!
!!


YAKO
IT'S NO GOOD
I CAN'T GET OVER THE WALL BETWEEN AKANE AND I

777 Tools of the Daemon World
EVIL AMPULE
IF YOU DRINK THIS, THE REVOLUTION SPEED OF YOUR NEURAL TRANSMITTERS WILL DOUBLE
AND WITH MY BRAIN...
IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE EVEN A DOG UNDERSTAND THIS MATERIAL

LICK IT
YOU WILL GET USED TO IT
ムチュ

IF I WENT AS FAR AS TO LICK HIS SHOES...
SUCH SWEET TEMPTATION!!
NO
HE'S JUST SAYING THAT

LICK MY SHOES FOR TWO OR THREE MINUTES
AS YOUR REWARD, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING BY THE END OF TODAY

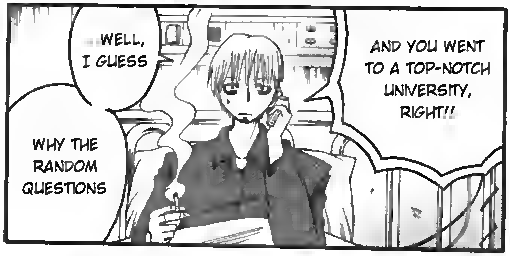
HELLO, MR SASAZUKA!?
...AH
HOW ARE YOU DOING!?
AH...!!
!
INCOMING CALL
SASAZUKA EIJI
A-81-24
!!
♪♪♪

YOUR ASSISTANT UH
WASN'T HE SHOT POINT-BLANK BY X
YOU MEAN NEURO!?
AH, YEAH... IT SEEMS HIS AIM WAS OFF AND HE JUST GRAZED HIM...!!
I THOUGHT I MIGHT COME SEE HOW YOU WERE DOING!!
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR!!
...WELL, NO PROBLEMS
NO SMOKING
A
AS LONG AS HE'S OKAY
...GOT IT
AND NOW HE'S UP AND AROUND, PROVOKING PEOPLE...
HUH?
ANYWAY, HOW'S HE DOING?
...NO, IT'S OKAY

APOLOGIZE?
WHY?
MEEP
GRSH
AAAH!!
I'D LIKE TO COME BY AND APOLOGIZE LATER
OPEN WIDE, SEMPAI, OPEN WIDE !!
FOR LETTING YOU ENTER THAT HOUSE
KNOWING FULL WELL THAT YOUR LIVES WERE IN DANGER, I USED YOU AS BAIT TO LURE X IN
IF I WAS CLOSE TO YOU, WHEN YOU HAD A CONNECTION TO HIM
I WOULD INCREASE MY CHANCES OF GETTING NEAR HIM
THAT WAS MY HUNCH AT THE TIME
NO, NOT AT ALL
I WAS THE ONE WHO JUST GOT IN THE WAY
YOU DON'T HAVE A SINGLE THING TO APOLOGIZE FOR
IF IT HAD GONE BADLY, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTHING I COULD DO TO BRING THINGS BACK TO HOW THEY WERE
MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT, BUT... IT WAS CRAZY OF ME
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO APOLOGIZE, LET ME KNOW

UM, MR. SASAZUKA
YOU'RE AT THE HOSPITAL, ON LEAVE FROM WORK, RIGHT?
...?
YEAH

I'VE GOT IT!!

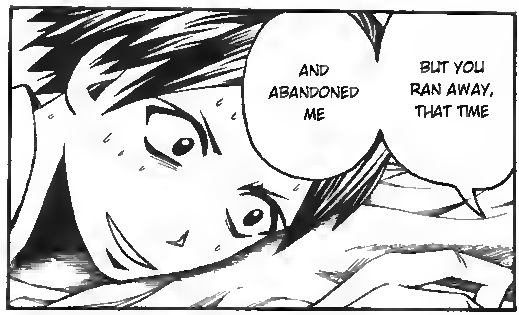

AND YOU WENT TO A TOP-NOTCH UNIVERSITY, RIGHT!!
...WELL, I GUESS
WHY THE RANDOM QUESTIONS

...OH, THAT
REALLY!?
SURE I USED TO BE A HOME TUTOR A LONG TIME AGO
ALRIGHT!!
I COULD PROBABLY TEACH YOU ANYTHING

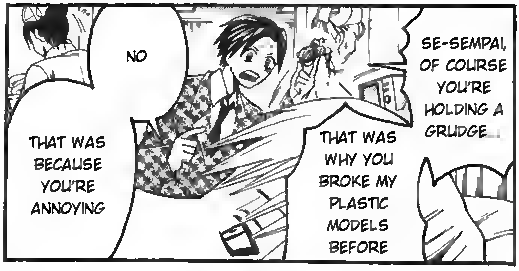
UM
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE OR ANYTHING
BUT IF IT'S NOT ANY TROUBLE
MAYBE YOU COULD HELP ME LEARN HOW TO STUDY FOR MY TESTS...

MR. SASAZUKA WILL BE GREAT!!
BEING TAUGHT BY SOMEONE OLDER IS THE WAY TO GO!!

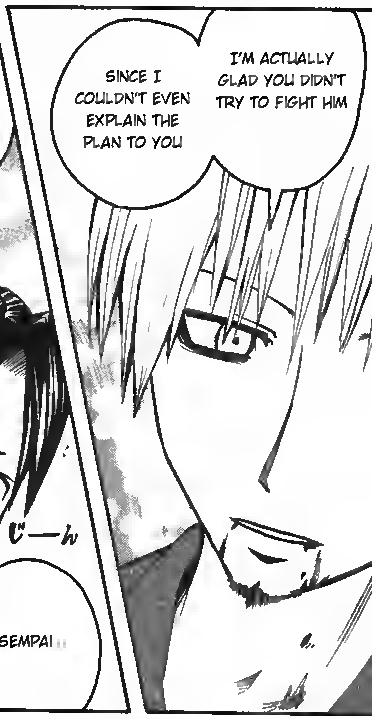
!?
ARE YOU OKAY, MR SASAZUKA!?
SE-SEMPAI!!
COUGH
ERGH...
COME DOWN TO THE HOSPITAL, I CAN FILL YOU IN ON THE DETAILS OF STUDYING THEN
...IT'S OKAY, I'M JUST HACKING UP A BIT OF BLOOD COUGH
ISN'T THAT A PRETTY SERIOUS INJURY!!
IF I BREATHE IN TOO DEEPLY WHEN I SMOKE IT SOMETIMES RE-OPENS THE WOUND AGAIN
SEEMS THAT WHEN X GOT ME, HE FRACTURED A RIB AND IT SCRATCHED MY LUNG
IT'S NOTHING
NO SMOKING
...WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE
...UM...
NO, IT'S OKAY...
SORRY...
HEY... HUH?


AND ABANDONED ME
BUT YOU RAN AWAY, THAT TIME

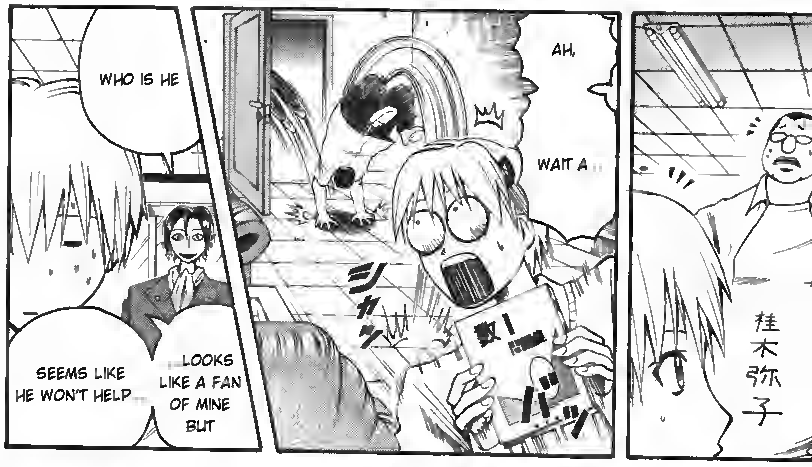
DON'T DIE, SEMPAI!!!!
AFTER I CHOSE TO PROTECT ONLY YOU WITH THESE VERY HANDS
...AH, OKAY...
ゆさ
ゆさ


NO
THAT WAS BECAUSE YOU'RE ANNOYING
SE-SEMPAI, OF COURSE YOU'RE HOLDING A GRUDGE...
THAT WAS WHY YOU BROKE MY PLASTIC MODELS BEFORE

SIMPLY NOT DYING IN VAIN...
IS ENOUGH TO BE THANKFUL FOR, DON'T WORRY
SASAZUKA
じ—ん
...SEMPAI...


I'M ACTUALLY GLAD YOU DIDN'T TRY TO FIGHT HIM
SINCE I COULDN'T EVEN EXPLAIN THE PLAN TO YOU

WE'LL HAVE TO CONFISCATE YOUR CELLPHONE AND CIGARETTES
スポ
YOU HAVE ONE MORE SURGERY AFTER THIS
ACKNOW-LEDGED...
NONE OF MY CLASSMATES HAVE ANY TIME...
YAKO!!
YAKO
A PERSON I COULD COUNT ON, SOMEONE FROM MY SCHOOL...
I GIVE UP...
IF I CAN'T GO TO MR SASAZUKA, WHO CAN I ASK
AT THIS BUSY TIME...
COMING HERE...
GEEZ...
ポラポラ
MY NEW ONE...
ALTOGRAPH...
杜木弥子

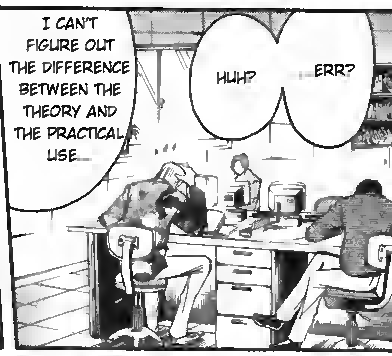

WHO IS HE
SEEMS LIKE HE WON'T HELP
LOOKS LIKE A FAN OF MINE BUT
AH,
WAIT A
桂木弥子

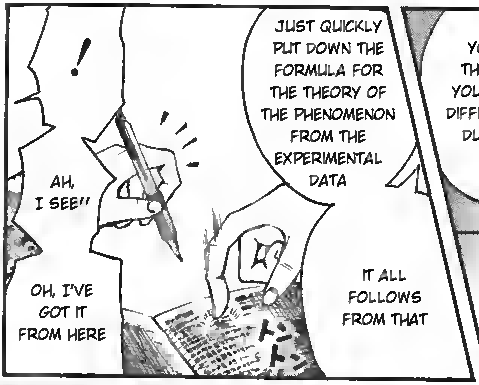
MR SASAZUKA HAS ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH RIGHT NOW
FOR ME TO BE SAYING THIS IS OTHER PEOPLE'S FAULT AND TRYING TO FIND SOMEONE TO ASK AND SO ON
IS A BIT CHILDISH OF ME
数1
問題集
...ENOUGH ALREADY
PERHAPS AT LAST THIS SHOE
SO, WHAT WILL YOU DO
I'LL FIND A WAY TO DO IT
...SOMEHOW, ON MY OWN

I'M THE ONE THAT CHOSE THIS LEVEL OF SCHOOL
AND OF COURSE, I'M NOT GOING TO STAND FOR LICKING YOUR SHOES
FUHAHAHA
FIRST OF ALL, GO OVER THE PARTS I'M SURE TO FAIL...
.... THOUGH ....
THERE REALLY ISN'T ENOUGH TIME
I HAVE TO GET SERIOUS UNTIL I'VE REVIEWED IT ALL TWICE
AH, GEE.....
I WONDER WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA THAT A PERSON'S VALUE IS DETERMINED BY HOW MUCH THEY CAN STUFF IN THEIR BRAIN

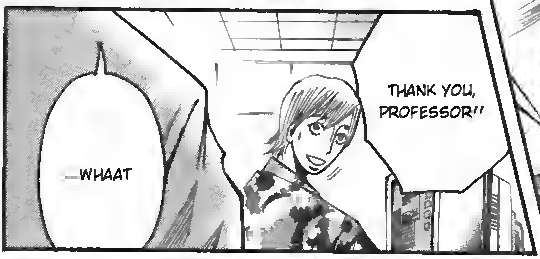
錯羽大学

SHUT UP
IT'S TOUGH BEING A STUDENT, HUH...
IF YOU THINK IT'S SO EASY, YOU TEACH ME
IT'S EASY FOR AN ASSISTANT WITH THOSE KINDA GRADES

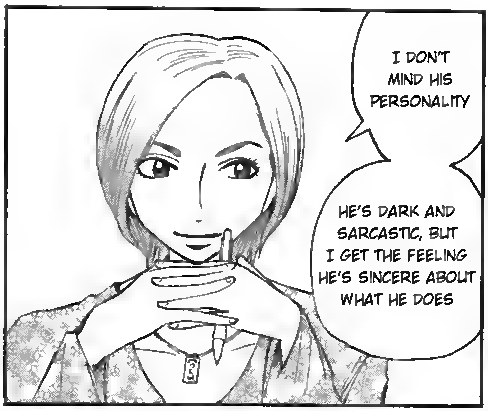

I CAN'T FIGURE OUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE THEORY AND THE PRACTICAL USE...
HUH?
...ERR?


!
AH, I SEE!!
OH, I'VE GOT IT FROM HERE
JUST QUICKLY PUT DOWN THE FORMULA FOR THE THEORY OF THE PHENOMENON FROM THE EXPERIMENTAL DATA
IT ALL FOLLOWS FROM THAT

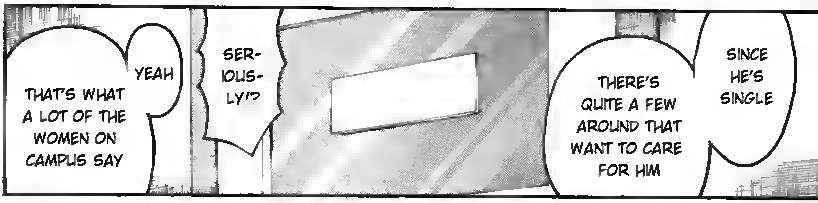
YOU CAN KNOW THE MEASURE OF YOUR BRAIN BY THE DIFFICULTY YOU HAVE DURING EXAMS...
HEH HEH HEH


...WHAAT
THANK YOU, PROFESSOR!!

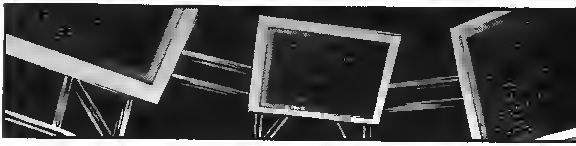
IF YOU CAN DO THAT AND CAREFULLY HONE IT...
HEH HEH HEH
YOUR BRAIN MIGHT HAVE SOME VALUE, IN A WAY
HANG ONTO THAT KNOWLEDGE
EVEN THE SMALL CAPACITY OF YOUR BRAIN...
CAN STILL HOLD MORE
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR
HARUKAWA EISUKE
HARUKAWA RESEARCH FACILITY
DO NOT ENTER WITHOUT PERMISSION
バタン
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY OF HIS PAPERS HAVE BEEN WELL-REGARDED
BUT REALLY, HE'S AT THE TOP OF HIS FIELD WHEN IT COMES TO THINGS RELATED TO THE BRAIN
HA HA HA
ESPECIALLY LATELY, I KEEP HEARING HIM TALKING TO HIMSELF IN HIS ROOM
I ALWAYS GET A WEIRD FEELING FROM PROFESSOR HARUKAWA


I DON'T MIND HIS PERSONALITY
HE'S DARK AND SARCASTIC, BUT I GET THE FEELING HE'S SINCERE ABOUT WHAT HE DOES

IS THAT SO
BUT HE'S SO DIFFICULT TO APPROACH, PERSONALITY-WISE


YEAH
THAT'S WHAT A LOT OF THE WOMEN ON CAMPUS SAY
SER-IOUS-LY!?
THERE'S QUITE A FEW AROUND THAT WANT TO CARE FOR HIM
SINCE HE'S SINGLE

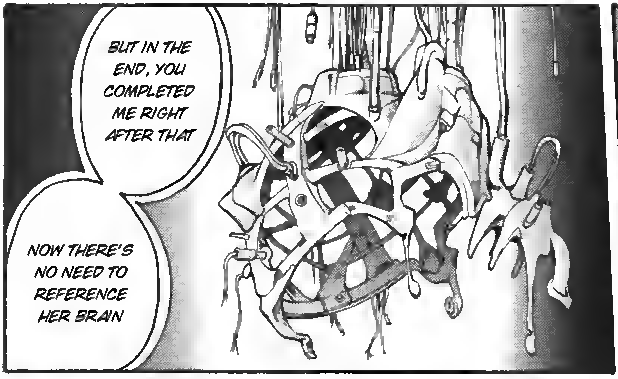
.....
NOW THEN...



I DO...
...OH, OR DO YOU REMEMBER HER
SPEAKING OF WHICH, MYSELF...
BECAUSE I WAS BORN FROM YOU IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS
WE SHARE MEMORIES UP UNTIL THAT POINT
YOU WERE, THAT'S RIGHT
I WONDER WHAT WE SHOULD DO ABOUT THAT GIRL INVESTIGATOR I MET AT THE RYOKAN

WHY BRING THIS UP NOW?
WELL
SEEING THE STUDENTS HERE STRUGGLING THROUGH THEIR TESTS
I WONDERED HOW SHE MIGHT BE DOING

THOUGH I DIDN'T HAVE THE FEELING SHE WAS SMART—
HER CONCLUSIONS LED TO EXACTLY THE RIGHT ANSWER
I WONDERED IF SHE COULD FINISH HER TESTS AS SMOOTHLY—— IS ALL IT WAS


BUT IN THE END, YOU COMPLETED ME RIGHT AFTER THAT
NOW THERE'S NO NEED TO REFERENCE HER BRAIN

HEH HEH HEH ...
SO YOU COULD SAY YOU HAD AN INTEREST IN HER BRAIN

...YES I ACCOMPLISHED MY GOAL PERFECTLY ...MY ONE SELF AND
I, THE ZERO-AND-ONE COPY OF YOU

NOW, MYSELF
THE FINAL STEP
YES
LET'S CONTINUE... THE FIELD TEST

CAN'T SOMEBODY COME AND SAVE ME...
PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE
OH NO, IT'S REALLY HOPELESS!!
ジー
7細胞から愛をこめて(完)